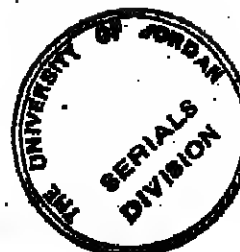


Libya denies plans to hire nuclear scientists

ROME (AP) — Libya on Saturday denied it wanted to hire nuclear scientists from the former Soviet Union, a prospect that U.S. and other Western officials have expressed worry about recently. JANA, the official Libyan news agency, said that such claims were "groundless and part of the hostile campaign directed against the Libyan Arab people by imperialist circles." The dispatch, monitored in Rome, said Libya "did not think of having a programme for manufacturing nuclear and chemical weapons." U.S. and European officials are studying ways to ensure full employment for nuclear scientists from the former Soviet Union, so they are not hired by countries seeking to develop nuclear weapons programmes. Libya recently denied a report by the Sunday Express of London saying Libya had recruited Soviet nuclear scientists to work on a secret project. Earlier this month, a Russian nuclear scientist, Vyacheslav Rozanov, told the Associated Press that Libya had offered jobs to two of his colleagues at the Kurchatov Institute of Atomic Energy. Libya denied the report.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordanian Press Syndicate
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية، الراي



King Fahd: Collapse of communism a blessing from God

MECCA, Saudi Arabia (AP) — King Fahd said Saturday that he considered the collapse of communism a blessing from God and called for extensive support to Muslims in the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. In a speech to an Islamic gathering in Mecca, the Saudi monarch also urged the world's estimated one billion Muslims to close ranks as a potent international force. "The disintegration of communism is a blessing from Almighty Allah and we have to help Muslims in the new Muslim republics of the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe," said the address read on King Fahd's behalf by the acting governor of the Muslim holy city, Prince Saud Abdul Mohsen. The remarks were read before the regular annual session of the Constitutional Council of the Muslim World League, which is being attended by about 80 scholars from various parts of the world. "Islamic life began to reawaken in the former Soviet Union and Muslims in the new independent republics are determined to regain the glory of their ancestors," King Fahd said in the speech. The King urged Muslim countries to extend massive material support to the Soviet and East Europe Muslims and said by so doing, the Muslim countries will be expressing a true spirit of solidarity.

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U.N. envoy in Libya

TUNIS (R) — A senior U.N. envoy arrived in Libya on Saturday to press demands for the handover of two Libyans accused of blowing up a Pan Am airliner over Scotland in 1988, a U.N. official in Tripoli said. The visit by Under-Secretary-General Vasily Safonchuk, the top Russian official at the U.N., followed a Security Council vote on Tuesday calling on Libya to respond to requests from the United States, Britain and France. The United States and Britain want the two men handed over for trial. France wants Libya to cooperate with an investigation into the 1989 bombing of an airliner over Niger.

Palestinian would-be deportee jailed

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — A Palestinian whose expulsion from the occupied territories was revoked without a trial, Israel radio has reported. Iyad Joudeh was the only one of 12 Palestinians ordered deported earlier this month whose expulsion was rejected by a military appeals panel. The 11 others have taken their appeals against the orders to Israel's high court of justice. "The appeals panel recommendation not to expel Iyad Joudeh, 28, was based on its impression that other, lesser measures are available to local commanders to prevent him from acting against security in the area," an army spokeswoman said on Thursday.

Iraq says OPEC cuts too little, too late

NICOSIA (R) — Iraq said on Saturday that oil production cuts by various members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) were too little too late. Oil Minister Usama Al Hiti, in an interview quoted by the Iraqi news agency INA, said the measures were "a bit late because... there is an oil glut on the market." Mr. Hiti told the government daily Al Jumhuriyah on Saturday the cuts "will not solve the acute drop in oil prices, because the reductions announced are minimal." INA added, INA, monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation, said the cuts were "propaganda measures."

1 killed in bomb blast in Istanbul

ISTANBUL, Turkey (AP) — A bomb blew up in Istanbul's famed covered bazaar on Saturday, killing a Turkish carpet dealer and wounding five other people, police said. Another bomb exploded at the fashionable Galleria shopping mall 15 minutes later, slightly injuring four people, authorities said. An anonymous caller to the Istanbul daily Milliyet claimed responsibility in the name of the "Kurdish people."

Saudi authorities execute goat

RIYADH (QNA) — A billy goat aged nine was executed by the Saudi authorities over charges that it had been giving milk that allegedly healed certain diseases. A large crowd gathered at the Saudi town of Skaka to witness the execution of the goat which was carried out upon orders from the Saudi authorities. According to Al Sabah newspaper, the goat, owned by a farmer in a northern district of Saudi Arabia, was rumoured to have been milking profusely and that his milk had healed diseases. Reports about the goat's wonders had spread over the whole northern districts of the Saudi kingdom. The goat was immediately detained and later executed to prevent sedition.

Egypt urges youth to go into trash business

CAIRO (R) — Jobless young Egyptians should look for a future in trash, Minister of Local Government Mahmoud Sharif told parliament on Saturday. He said a multi-million-dollar social fund planned by the government might help unemployed youths set up rubbish collection firms. Cairo had only 8,000 street cleaners, half the number it needed to dispose of the 6,000 tonnes of garbage it discards every day.

U.S. reportedly proposes link between loan guarantees, Jewish settlements

Israel rejects linkage, says issues negotiable

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — A senior minister on Saturday rejected a reported American proposal that Israel stop building new homes in the occupied territories in order to get U.S. loan guarantees for housing Jewish immigrants.

Health Minister Ehud Olmert said Israel could "not possibly accept" the U.S. conditions. But he said it was possible to negotiate and reach a compromise acceptable to both Israel and the United States.

Interviewed on army radio Saturday, Mr. Olmert said Washington appeared to have backed down from earlier demands to freeze all settlement activity and was prepared to allow completion of existing housing starts.

"The fact that they are prepared to reconcile themselves with housing starts which two or three months ago they harshly criticised, is a victory for the Israeli line which has insisted on building in Judea and Samaria (West Bank)," said Mr. Olmert, an ally of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir.

Opposition legislators, citing housing ministry documents, say the government started 18,273 new housing units in the West Bank and 1,540 in Gaza last year. The average size of an urban Israeli family is 3.5 percent which means these new units would allow roughly 64,000 people to move into the occupied territories. The actual number would likely be higher because settlements have average households of 4.3 persons.

Israel is asking the Bush administration to guarantee \$10 billion in loans from commercial banks. The money would be used to help absorb about 400,000 Jewish immigrants, mostly from the Soviet Union and Ethiopia. About 6,000 of these have resettled in the occupied territories.

The United States has been reluctant to approve the guarantees unless Israel stops settling Jews on the West Bank and Gaza, predominantly Arab territories occupied during the 1967 Mideast war.

In a meeting Friday with Israel's ambassador in Washington, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker reportedly suggested that U.S. objections to Jewish settlements in the territories might be met if Israel stopped building new homes there.

Israel has argued that the loan guarantees should be viewed as a humanitarian issue, separate from its actions in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. But Palestinians maintain



Abdul Karim Al Kabarti

Jordan urges U.S. to withhold assistance for settlements

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan expressed hope Saturday that the U.S. administration would withhold from Israel any kind of assistance that would enable it to continue building Jewish settlements in the occupied Arab territories. Labour and acting Information Minister Abdul Karim Al Kabarti, in a statement carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said Jordan hopes that the U.S. administration would not enable Israel to pursue its illegitimate settlement process in the occupied Arab lands since such process is bound to endanger the peace process.

Israel's settlement drive is undermining the peace talks, which are based on U.N. resolutions urging Israel to surrender occupied land in exchange for peace.

Legislators from the extreme right have called on Israel to reject the conditions, drop the request and solicit the funds from Jewish communities in the diaspora.

Geula Cohen, an outspoken parliament member from the Tehiya Party which bolied Mr. Shamir's coalition on Sunday, said freezing additional settlements in the occupied territories was tantamount to promoting a Palestinian state there.

"In such circumstances, we shall, in the future, God forbid, not need guarantees to absorb newcomers, but guarantees to the very existence of the state of Israel," Ms. Cohen said on Israel radio.

Haim Oron, a legislator from the Socialist Mapam Party, said freezing settlements was of foremost national interest and did not constitute surrender to American

pressure. Jewish sources briefed on Mr. Baker's meeting with the senators said he had argued for the need to find a solution that both Israel and the United States could live with but stressed that the U.S. would not compromise on its opposition to settlements.

"The key sentence was that Mr. Baker said that the solution might be to deal with the question of housing starts rather than a settlement freeze," said one source, who asked not to be identified.

The difference between the United States demanding a settlement freeze and demanding an end to housing starts lies in the fact that Israel has several thousand houses currently under construction in the occupied territories.

If it were able to complete all these, the Israeli government would be able to argue that it had not agreed to a settlement freeze in exchange for loan guarantees.

Mr. Shoval said after the hour-long meeting Mr. Baker had told him Washington still wanted to help Israel absorb hundreds of thousands of Jewish immigrants from the former Soviet Union and the two had agreed to meet again the week after next.

"I was very happy to hear from the secretary that the United States continues to be fully committed to the principle of helping Israel in the vast humanitarian task of absorbing up to one million immigrants from the Soviet Union and elsewhere in the next few years," Mr. Shoval told reporters.

Republican Senator Bob Kasten, a strong Israel supporter and backer of the guarantees, said after the meeting that the settlements issue had to be addressed if a fight between Israel and the administration was to be avoided.

But support appeared to be building in Congress for a policy that would penalise Israel for settlements. One proposal put forward by Republican Senator Patrick Leahy would deduct a dollar from the guarantees for each dollar Israel spent on settlements.

"I think we ought to deduct from those loans any amounts that are spent directly on the settlements," said Senator Leahy.

Diplomats and American Jewish leaders said Mr. Baker had decided that Israel could not have it both ways.

Either Prime Minister Shamir could continue pouring funds into settlements or he could secure massive new financial backing from Washington, but he could not do both.

Jordan's delegation to multilaterals leaves for Moscow today

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan's delegation to the multinational peace talks in Moscow, led by Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber, is due to leave Amman for the Russian capital Sunday.

According to an official statement carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, the delegation includes Dr. Faysal Tarawneh, Lieutenant General Abdul Hafez Marei, Jordan's ambassador to Turkey, Mr. Saleh Al Kabarti, Jordan's ambassador in Moscow, Dr. Mohammad Al Udwan, Jordan's ambassador to Belgium, Talal Al Hassan, Dr. Munther Haddadin, and president of the Higher Council for Science and Technology Dr. Abdullah Toukan.

In a statement on the eve of the delegation's departure for Moscow, Labour and acting Information Minister Abdul Karim Kabarti said Jordan would take part in the Moscow meeting which is due to open Tuesday as the Kingdom attaches great hopes on such a parity.

Mr. Kabarti said that the Moscow meeting is tantamount to an international conference long sought by the Arabs, involving many nations in the peace process that aims at implementing international legitimacy and U.N. Security Council resolutions that would ensure the achievement of a just and durable peace and contribute to the stability and the progress of all nations in the region.

Dr. Abdul Salam Al Majali, the head of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to the bilateral talks, was quoted as saying that the opening session of the Moscow talks would be limited to procedural matters. The talks at Moscow, Dr. Majali said, would not go beyond defining the topics to be discussed and forming committees that would decide when and where to meet to discuss the various issues.

PLO considers

In Tunis, PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat said Saturday the United States had broken a promise that Palestinians in the diaspora and from Jerusalem would be invited to the multilateral talks. He said he had called the Palestinian leadership to an urgent meeting to decide whether negotiators from the West Bank and Gaza Strip should attend the Moscow talks "if they take place."

The meeting was expected to take place on Saturday night or Sunday, aides to Mr. Arafat said. "There is a strange and inexplicable stand of the U.S. administration which retracted totally from the assurances it gave us at the start of the peace process that Palestinians from the diaspora and Jerusalem will participate at the multilateral talks," Mr. Arafat told reporters in Tunis. He said leaders of the various Palestine Liberation Organisation factions would discuss this dangerous situation and take the final decision about the Moscow talks.

GCC to attend

On the other hand, most Gulf Arab foreign ministers will attend Middle East multilateral talks in Moscow, a Gulf official said on Saturday.

"According to my knowledge, most Gulf foreign ministers will go to Moscow," the official told Reuters by telephone from Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) headquarters in Saudi Arabia.

U.S. and Russian envoys delivered invitations earlier this month to foreign ministers of the six-nation GCC which groups Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman and the United Arab Emirates.

The conference next Tuesday and Wednesday will deal with regional issues like arms control, economic development and water resources.



His Majesty King Hussein Saturday receives American Jewish leaders and reviews with them Middle East peace efforts (Petra photo)

King tells American Jewish leaders settlements endanger peace

By Nidal M. Ibrahim and Kirk Albrecht with agency dispatches

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday received a Jewish delegation from the United States and warned them that efforts for peace will fail if Israel persists in its ongoing settlement building campaign.

In the first visit where the Jordanian government formally hosted a Jewish group, King Hussein told a delegation from the American Jewish Congress that the peace process is imperiled by continued Israeli actions.

"The Israeli settlements and transgression are the two major threats facing the peace process," King Hussein told the 8-member delegation. "The peace process will not succeed if Israel continues its efforts to abort the process."

Specifically, he said, the continued building of settlements in an effort to create facts on the ground made it difficult to negotiate a land for peace deal between the Arabs and Israel. The systematic expropriation of Palestinian land cannot continue if the peace process is to succeed, King Hussein said.

Also, rising Jewish extremism in the occupied Arab territories constitute a major threat to the Middle East peace process, the King said.

Henry Siegman, executive director of the 50,000 member New York-based organisation, said that his group was also opposed to settlement building. He agreed with the King about settlements threat to the peace process.

"The basic policy of the American Jewish Congress is that it is

not in Israel's basic interest to proceed with a vigorous settlement programme while a peace process is under way," he said. "If Israel is to achieve a peace with its neighbours, then it should declare a freeze on settlements in order to give the peace process a chance," he added.

Furthermore, he added, it is clear that a majority of American Jews and Israelis are in favour of such a freeze. He pointed out that a recent poll commissioned by the Likud, which refuses to consider such a freeze, found that over 50 per cent of Israelis agree that after a five-year period there should be some territorial compromise.

Mr. Siegman said his delegation came "with an appreciation to the fact that the Jordanian delegation has played a particularly helpful role and we intend to complement King Hussein for that."

"We hope that it (the Jordanian delegation) would continue to do so and we will encourage Jordanian officials to continue playing that role," he said in an interview with the Associated Press.

One of the things that Arabs need to do to demonstrate their sincere commitment to peace, he said, is "to give Israelis, not the government, a sense of confidence that the Arab World really has come to terms with Israel's existence."

"Once they're crossed that threshold then all kinds of other things are possible, particularly with respect to greater Israeli openness to the kinds of sacrifices they will have to make," Mr. Siegman added in reference to

territorial compromise. Jordanian officials, Mr. Siegman said, questioned the degree of commitment of the United States to seeing the peace process succeed. "There were some officials we met with who expressed some concern that the United States may not be fully committed to the course," he said.

Earlier, Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker met with the visiting Jewish delegation in the presence of several Cabinet members, including Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber, who led Jordan's delegation to the Madrid peace conference.

Sharif Zeid reviewed steps being taken to reach a durable peace in the Middle East and also prospects for progress in the upcoming multilateral talks in Moscow.

In reference to the Moscow talks, Mr. Siegman praised Jordan's intention to attend the talks.

The Jewish delegation, which is to go to Israel today where it will meet and brief Israeli officials on their talks with Arab leaders, have visited Egypt and Saudi Arabia as part of their tour. It was the first time that a Jewish delegation had officially visited the Gulf states.

"We are on a fact-finding mission throughout the Middle East, and the purpose of it is to gain a better understanding of the position of the various countries," Mr. Siegman said.

"We also want to know how we, as one of several major American Jewish organisations, can play a constructive role ourselves in supporting the peace process and ensuring its success," he added.

Kuwait sets new deadline for residents

KUWAIT (Agencies) — Foreigners, mostly Palestinians, have been given until Feb. 15 to apply for residence papers or risk expulsion.

Kuwaiti newspapers on Saturday quoted immigration chief Colonel Ahmad Al Wubeib as saying foreigners could not apply for residence after the deadline.

The government cancelled all residence permits issued to foreigners before Iraq's invasion of Kuwait to August 1990.

At the end of December, Kuwait extended for five months a deadline for tens of thousands of non-Kuwaitis to obtain new permits. One condition was that they had to submit passports not bearing Iraqi stamps.

But the newspapers quoted Col. Wubeib as saying the May deadline was for completion of residence formalities and all applications had to be received by Feb. 15.

Residents said foreigners, forced to have Iraqi stamps after Baghdad declared Kuwait Iraq's 19th province, were obtaining new passports from their embassies.

Sanctions hamper Iraqi efforts to rebuild

ALGIERS (Agencies) — Iraq's efforts to rebuild after the Gulf war are being badly hit by lack of raw materials and spare parts because of the U.N. embargo, its ambassador to Algeria said in an interview published on Saturday.

"It is the only obstacle," Abdul Karim Hussein Al Mala said, adding that Baghdad's priorities were to rebuild its oil infrastructure, irrigation, electricity, roads, bridges, schools, hospitals and communication centres.

"However, the Iraqis must count on their own competence and technical capacity" to overcome it, he told the newspaper El Moudjahid.

"We expected these losses because we undertook to confront a force which surpassed ours in numbers and means."

The U.S.-led coalition, which drove Iraq from Kuwait last year, had not succeeded in bringing the Iraqis to their knees and destroying their sovereignty, Mr. Al Mala said.

"It turns out that prolonging these sanctions has the opposite effect, gathering that Iraqi people round their President" Saddam Hussein, the ambassador said.

Meanwhile, a U.N. panel set up to handle Gulf war damage claims against Iraq on Friday forwarded Baghdad's request for

a five-year payment deferral to the Security Council, a U.N. source said.

Iraq's proposal came in a six-page letter backing its argument with a comparison between possible future oil revenue and what needed to be spent to rebuild the country, the source said.

The 15-nation U.N. compensation commission, which is responsible in the Security Council, agreed the request was outside its mandate.

The panel, in a weeklong meeting that ended Friday, left unresolved the conditions under which companies can claim damages for loss of business linked to the Gulf crisis and ensuing war or the U.N.-imposed economic embargo against Iraq.

The commission did agree on provisions regulating which people can claim "mental pain and anguish," said the source, who spoke on condition of anonymity. He declined to elaborate.

The commission comprises officials from the 15 Security Council members.

In previous meetings, it decided to give priority to claims by individuals such as the hundreds of thousands of foreign workers who fled the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait that touched off the crisis.

Army deploys in 7 southern villages

TYRE, Lebanon (AP) — The government, seeking to slowly spread its authority to the troubled south, on Saturday sent a token force of 150 soldiers into seven villages which had been policed by U.N. peacekeepers for nearly 14 years.

The deployment was not previously announced, and villagers were visibly surprised when the troops, backed by six U.S.-made M-48 tanks rolled in at 6 a.m.

The villages, with a combined Shiite Muslim population of about 14,000, had been policed by 70 Ghanaian troops of the United Nations interim force in Lebanon.

The Ghanaians withdrew from Deir Qanoun Al Nahr, Burj Rahhal, Abbasieh, Bedias, Tura, Teir Debba and Bazourieh only a few hours before the Lebanese troops moved in.

In a terse communique after the deployment was completed, the defense ministry said the move had been coordinated with UNIFIL and approved by the U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali.

The Ghanaians redeployed in

Wadi Jelo, just south of the seven villages, forming 25-kilometre buffer separating the Lebanese troops from Israel's self-proclaimed security zone.

School children lined up in the villages to applaud the troops as they hoisted the Lebanese flag on positions vacated by the Ghanaians. They youngsters sang the national anthem as women ululated and showered the soldiers with rose petals.

Some residents offered the troops tea and the traditional breakfast of pita bread and thyme.

"You are our protectors. You'll make sure that no militiamen are allowed into the area," said one man who identified himself as Hussein Daoud.

The villages had been rocked by militia rivalry in recent years. The pro-Iranian Hizbollah, or Party of God, and the Syrian-backed Amal have been locked in an often bloody power struggle in south Lebanon.

Also, guerrilla attacks mounted against Israeli troops and allied militiamen in the security zone have drawn severe reprisals against these villages.

At UNIFIL's request, the army deployed in nearby Teir Dibba in November to snuff out clashes between Amal and the fundamentalist Hizbollah.

The nine-nation, 5,800 U.N. force was sent to the region after an Israeli incursion in March 1978. Sections of its zone of operations overlap with Israel's security zone.

President Elias Hrawi has been trying to restore government authority to the south since the civil war ended in October 1990.

But these plans have been hindered by Israel's refusal to withdraw and the Shiite militias' rejection of disbanding until the Israelis leave.

Israel carved out the 1,100-square-kilometre security zone in the summer of 1985 to protect its northern territories from cross-border guerrilla infiltrations. The buffer is policed by some 1,200 Israelis and 3,000 militiamen of the Christian-offered south Lebanon army.

In U.S.-arranged Middle East peace talks launched in October, Lebanon is seeking Israeli withdrawal from the zone.

Turkish coalition party to settle leadership race

ANKARA (R) — Turkey's new coalition government faces a test on Sunday when its Social Democrat wing votes on whether to keep Deputy Prime Minister Erdal Inonu as its leader.

Deniz Baykal, a 53-year-old lawyer, is challenging former nuclear physicist professor Inonu for the leadership of the Social Democratic Populist Party (SHP) for the third time in three years.

No one is taking bets on the outcome of the vote which could shake the coalition forged by Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel after last October's inconclusive general election.

Mr. Demirel, unable to form a government with his conservative True Path Party's 178 seats on his own, enlisted the support of the SHP, which has 86 deputies in the 450-seat parliament.

"If we lose (the convention), we will not stay in the government," Mr. Inonu, 65, has said.

Mr. Baykal has accused Mr. Inonu of blackmailing SHP delegates by threatening to bring down the government and says the coalition can survive if he wins the leadership contest.

Mr. Demirel has taken no side in the SHP squabble, but has said: "We form partnerships with legal entities not individuals."

But a forced cabinet reshuffle would be bad news for a prime minister trying to cope with 71 per cent inflation.

Taiwan to seek trade offices with Israel

TAIPEI (R) — Taiwan hopes to exchange trade offices with Israel even though the Jewish state has established full diplomatic relations with the island's rival, China. Taiwan's foreign ministry spokesman said on Saturday.

"So long as it is of mutual interest to our countries, we will continue to negotiate with Israel about the exchange of trade offices," spokesman Ouyang Jui-Hsing said.

"Economic, trade and cultural links with Israel will not be cut off," he said.

China and Israel established full diplomatic relations on Friday, paving the way for Peking to play an important role in advancing Middle East peace.

Previously Israel had no official links with either Taiwan or China. Taipei and Peking have been foes since 1949 when the nationalists fled to Taiwan after being beaten by the communists.

Mauritania president takes lead
Opposition declares fraud in first contested presidential elections

NOUAKCHOTT, Mauritania (AP) — Military ruler Col. Maouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya held a slight lead in early returns Saturday in this desert nation's first contested presidential election.

Results from 17 of 52 departments gave Taya 49.8 per cent, his chief challenger, Ahmed Ould Daddah 45.8 per cent, and two other candidates split the rest.

If Col. Taya gets 50 per cent he can avoid a runoff. Votes from the eastern region, also believed to favour Col. Taya, were yet to be counted.

Col. Taya's support was strongest in the north, where the population is largely Moorish. Mr. Daddah's strongest showing was in the south, where the black minority lives. Human rights groups say Taya's government, made up mostly of Moors who are of Arabic and Berber descent, has persecuted blacks, imprisoning and killing some believed to oppose his rule.

Opposition leaders have already claimed Friday's vote was rigged by Col. Taya's government and Mr. Daddah's party said it would ask that the vote be annulled.

European Parliament observer Henri Saby told the Associated Press, "it is clear that every candidate had tried every means of trickery and fraud imaginable, but what is not clear is whether they succeeded," in falsifying the vote.

Witnesses said armed paramilitary troops dispersed crowds at some polling stations with baton charges. There were reports of minor injuries, although the voting appeared generally

peaceful. He said the worst offenders were Col. Taya and Mr. Daddah, a half-brother of Mauritania's first president, Moktar Ould Daddah. He was overthrown by a military council that Col. Taya ousted in 1984 palace coup.

Col. Taya's information officer, Mohamed Ould Babetta, accused Mr. Daddah of "fraud on every front" but said it was not serious enough to warrant calling new elections.

Before the vote, Col. Taya said he would step down "without embarrassment and with humility" if he is defeated.

Balloting officials and international observers estimated a turnout of more than 85 per cent of the 1,165,000 registered voters among the nation of nearly 2 million people. Thousands of people lined up to vote across the country.

Riot police patrolled shantytowns Friday as angry blacks protested that the Arab-dominated government kept them from voting in this desert nation's first multiparty presidential elections.

The three opposition candidates claimed massive fraud in the voting, which comes after 23 years of military rule by Col. Maouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya.

Witnesses said armed paramilitary troops dispersed crowds at some polling stations with baton charges. There were reports of minor injuries, although the voting appeared generally



President Taya

peaceful.

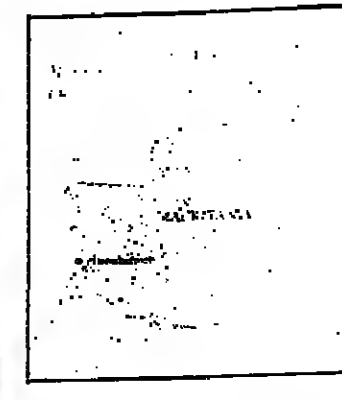
Responding to complaints that many residents could not vote, officials blamed inefficiency and ineptitude. Some voting lists were handwritten and many election officials, assessors and representatives of all the candidates had to count ballots by candlelight.

If no candidate receives 50 per cent of the vote, a runoff is scheduled Feb. 7.

Dozens of blacks crowded around voting booths in Nouakchott's eastern El Mina suburb, a town of wood, tin and cardboard shanties where a minority Islamic fundamentalist movement is winning support.

As voting closed and dusk fell at 7 p.m., the blacks surrounded two U.S. diplomats shouting, "they won't let us vote because we're black."

"It's apartheid in this country,



Col. Taya

On every front we are discriminated against," one woman yelled.

There were similar scenes at several ballot stations. One nearly turned violent when Arab voters yelled that they too had not been able to vote and blacks turned on them, screaming, "liars, liars."

Riot police patrolling the city in jeeps and trucks blocked off ballot stations and administrative offices where blacks were gathered.

An Associated Press reporter watched thousands of black voting during the 12-hour balloting, which was generally peaceful. Several Arabs in the crowds had not voted when balloting closed.

Mr. Saby said the worst vote-fraud offenders were Col. Taya and his chief rival, Mr. Ahmed Ould Daddah.

A spokesman for Mr. Daddah said he would call for the elec-

tions to be canceled. Col. Taya's spokesman, Mohamed Ould Babetta, accused Mr. Daddah of "fraud on every front" but said it was not serious enough to warrant calling new elections.

An outside contender, economist and former Nouakchott mayor Mohamed Mahmoud Ould Mah, also called for a new vote. He said yellow ballots printed with his name looked too much like blank orange slips for voters who rejected all candidates.

It was not immediately possible to contact the other outsider, Col. Moustapha Ould Saleck, who helped overthrow the Ould Daddah regime.

Mr. Daddah and other opposition candidates have accused Col. Taya of using the administration to register his supporters more than once while preventing thousands of blacks from registering.

Col. Taya's spokesman made the same allegation against Mr. Daddah, saying he had used allies among government officials.

Mr. Saby said the attempts at fraud ranged from falsifying voting cards and fabricating identification cards to registering voters who were too young or who were dead.

At one voting booth in Ouadnaga, 50 kilometres outside Nouakchott, Mr. Saby said, he helped stop voting because it was clear the ballot box was stuffed before balloting began.

Mahmoud Riad dies in Cairo

CAIRO (R) — Egyptian diplomat Mahmoud Riad, secretary-general of the Arab League in the 1970s and a critic of his country's peace with Israel, has died in Cairo aged 75.

The Salaam hospital in Cairo's Mohandiseen district said Mr. Riad died on Friday night and would be buried on Sunday. Al-Ahram newspaper said he died of a heart attack.

Mr. Riad privately opposed the peace treaty signed in 1979 but had to resign his Arab League post after member states suspended Egypt and decided to move the league headquarters from Cairo to Tunis.

He remained prominent in Arab public life as a senior statesman and commentator.

Mr. Riad remained sceptical of the peace process until the very end, warning the Arabs that they were dealing from a position of weakness in talks they started last October with Israel.

"The Arab ship is being buf-

feted by waves and has the direst need for someone to steer it with skill ... so that the Arab negotiator should know he is negotiating for peace and not surrender," he wrote in Al Hayat newspaper last Tuesday.

Like many of modern Egypt's famous sons, Mr. Riad rose from modest origins to start a career as an army officer.

A strong advocate of Arab unity, he rose quickly under Egypt's radical president Gamal Abdel Nasser but found himself swimming against the tide when Anwar Sadat turned Egypt more towards the West.

Mr. Riad caught Nasser's eye as ambassador to Syria in the heady pan-Arabist days of the 1950s, just before the two countries united in the short-lived United Arab Republic in 1958. He became the president's foreign affairs adviser.

He was Egypt's ambassador to the United Nations and then deputy prime minister and foreign

minister from 1964 until 1972.

As Arab League secretary-general from 1972 until 1979, Mr. Riad was the Arab world's key diplomat during the 1973 October War and the oil boom which brought it worldwide power.

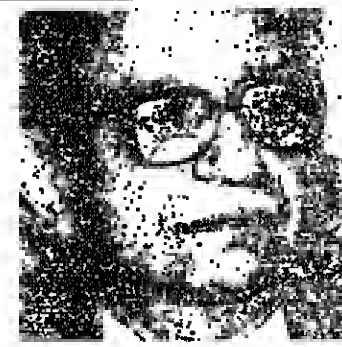
"I was not against peace. But I am against the treaty because it is against peace," he told Reuters in a 1989 interview.

"It was not a comprehensive peace settlement for the Middle East crisis but a separate treaty between Egypt and Israel."

In the 1980s, he tried to use his close links with Syria and its president Hafez Al Assad to reintegrate Egypt into the Arab fold, frequently travelling to Damascus and urging other Arab states to think again about ostracising Cairo.

He lived to see the Arab League return to Cairo and Egypt resume centre stage in Arab politics.

Born in the Nile delta on Jan. 8, 1917, Mr. Riad graduated from



Mr. Mahmoud Riad

the military academy in 1936.

He had direct experience of the Arab-Israeli conflict as early as 1949, when he served on the mixed armistice commission which oversaw the end of the fighting which accompanied the creation of Israel.

He wrote several books, including "the search for peace and the struggle in the Middle East," and contributed frequently to Arab newspapers.

He is survived by a wife and three sons.

Muslims and police clash in Cameroon

YAOUNDE (R) — Muslim youths in Cameroon fought street battles with security forces on Saturday, a day after at least two protesters were killed in clashes over a new mosque in the capital.

Witnesses said gangs of angry youths threw up street barricades in Yaounde's Muslim quarter, La Briquerie, and attacked cars and property.

Plumes of black smoke rose from the area, a network of narrow streets, and a police helicopter hovered overhead.

Riot police fought pitched battles with Muslims after Friday prayers to prevent a banned march on the town hall.

March organiser Alhaji Sani said Sabio Housseini, 15, was shot dead by a bullet in the head.

Kuwait gets new jets, officer discontent still widespread

KUWAIT CITY (AP) — Kuwait took delivery of the first three of 40 U.S.-built F/A-18 fighter aircraft Saturday in what the defence minister said is the initial step in building a post-Gulf war military with a heavily high-tech arsenal.

But many senior officers, dismayed by the slow pace of reform in the Kuwaiti military are looking to a U.S. military review now underway, plus promised parliamentary elections in October, as their only hope of pressuring the government to revamp the armed forces from the top down.

Defence Minister Sheikh Ali Al Sabah said the military reconstruction will be partly financed by selling military hardware and ammunition worth and estimated \$4 billion left behind by the Iraqi army.

He said Kuwait will be scrupulous in choosing the buyers for the leftover Iraqi tanks, artillery and ammunition so that the weapons don't end up back in Iraqi hands.

"This is the beginning of improving the Kuwaiti military through the route of high technology," the minister said.

Other equipment to be delivered from the United States over the next 18 months include 700 Humvees, the modern jeep. The Kuwaitis might also possible get Hawk anti-aircraft missiles, to replace those captured by Iraq, as well as Patriot missile systems.

Orders for tanks and other

battlefield equipment await the outcome of the American military study.

Kuwait's military is down to about 10,000 men, including 4,000 in the air force, from a pre-invasion level of around 21,000.

The government has dismissed thousands of stateless men known as "bidoun" who formed the bulk of the pre-invasion military.

Many allegedly joined the Iraqis during the invasion so the authorities want to limit their number and recruit Kuwaiti citizens. But an initial recruitment drive attracted only about 2,000.

A defence pact signed with the United States in December, along with a similar pact to be signed with Britain next month and one under negotiation with France, has lessened Kuwait's security jitters.

"With Saddam Hussein in power I think the threat's still there," Sheikh Ali said. "Protection is the friends you have, and not the weapons you have."

Kuwait rejected an initial plan

for Egyptian and Syrian troops, feeling their ardour in protecting the emirate could ebb according to the whims of Arab politics.

An Omani proposal for the Gulf Arab states to beef up their joint forces to 100,000 men also appears stillborn.

The December summit of the six-member Gulf Cooperation Council referred it to a study committee for a further six months, in effect, shelving the proposal.

For many Kuwaiti colonels and other senior officers, the most galling aspect of the military chaos during the invasion is that the top commanders have not been replaced.

Ten senior air force officers and 250 army officers signed petitions last May demanding the dismissal of up to 30 generals and a strictly military review of what went wrong when Iraqi troops invaded in August 1990.

The defence minister said a review process is underway.

"We have to revise our tactics, we have to revise our training, we have to revise a lot of things, and

one of them is to revise our capabilities as commanders and soldiers," Sheikh Ali said.

A British plan completed in August calls for a 30,000-man force. With the ground forces deployed in a series of forts along the border, they would in theory be able to hold off invaders until help arrived.

"We can get to a point where we can stop the enemy from invading Kuwait. I don't want to talk about days, or how long we can stop them," Sheikh Ali said.

He said the military would be 90 per cent rebuilt within a year.

Many of the officers who stood their ground and fought while the senior commanders fled said they think they'll have to wait for the elections before real change will come.

"There are just too many entrenched interests in the military. We need an independent body that can pressure the government," said one senior officer who was captured by the Iraqis. He spoke on condition of anonymity.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

17:30 Les Badaboks
17:45 Geoscope
18:10 L'ecole des Fais
19:00 News in French
19:15 Canele de notes
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Empty Nest
21:10 Nippon
22:00 News in English
22:30 Law and Order

PRAYER TIMES

6:59 Fajr
6:59 (Sunrise) Duha
11:45 Dhuhr
14:45 'Asr
17:07 Maghreb
18:27 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swifich Tel. 810740
Assembly of God Church, Tel. 637285
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel.

637440.
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terremonta Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541.
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543.
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.
Syrian Orthodox Church Tel. 771751.
Assuan International Church Tel. 685326.
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295.
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 823824, 654932.
Church of the Nazareth Tel. 675691.

WEATHER

It will be sunny and relatively cold, and winds will be southeasterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.
Min./Max. temp.
Amman 6/19
Aqaba 6/17
Desert -2/9
Jordan Valley 6/16

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Yesterday's high temperature: Amman 8, Aqaba 16. Humidity readings: Amman 45 per cent, Aqaba 22 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY
AMMAN:
Dr. Saad Ali 788285
Dr. Ghazi Abu Sheikh 752405
Dr. Ahmad Humein 752118
Dr. Khalil Jabali 740740
Firas pharmacy 661912
Firdous pharmacy 778336
Al Asma pharmacy 637055
Nairoukh pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shawassan pharmacy 637660
JERUSALEM:
Dr. Ali Al Samman (-)
Al Shura'a pharmacy 278225
ZARQA:
Dr. Khalid Abu Hussein (-)

Khalid pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate
Rescue 630241
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 611111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 60821
Hotel Complaints 608800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage
Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information
(directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone
Reception 623101
Abdali Telephone Registry 661101
Jordan Television 773111

Radio Jordan 774111

Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power
Company 636381
RJ Right Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Int. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn. 642816
Akilidi Maternity, J. Amn. 642412
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmiciani 6641714
Shawassan Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Muasher Hospital 6672279
The Islamic, Abdali 66612757
Al-Ahli, Abdali 6641646
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 77101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 77511/26
Army, Marka 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 60224050
Al-Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323

Zarqa National Hospital (09)900569

Bin Sina Hospital (09)98732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)909090
IBBID:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555
Groot Catholic Hospital (02)272715
The Al Wafaa Hospital (02)247100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
09:00 Jeddah (RJ)
09:30 Aqaba (RJ)
09:55 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)

18:45 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
16:45 Cairo (RJ)
17:40 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
18:40 Madrid, Rome (RJ)
18:40 Paris, Geneva (RJ)
18:15 Frankfurt, Vienna (RJ)
19:20 London, Brussels (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

09:30 Cairo (MS)
14:40 Moscow (SU)
18:20 Larnaca (CY)
19:35 Beirut (ME)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:15 Beirut (RJ)
07:40 Aqaba (RJ)
11:10 Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
12:45 Cairo (RJ)
15:00 Larnaca (RJ)
20:00 Jeddah (RJ)
20:00 Damascus (RJ)
20:10 Riyadh (RJ)
20:30 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
22:00 Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (RJ)
22:40 Bangkok (RJ)
22:45 Sanaa (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

18:25 Cairo (MS)

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in file per kg.
Apple (red) 700/700
Apple (yellow) 500/500
Banana 500/450
Banana (Mukammal) 550/500
Beans 700/600
Cabbage 180/120
Carrot 200/150
Cauliflower 220/160
Cucumbers (large) 300/250

King meets Taiwanese minister, reviews ties

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein conferred at the Royal Court Saturday with Taiwan's Minister of State for Scientific and Technological Affairs who conveyed to him greetings from the Taiwanese president and reviewed Jordanian-Taiwanese relations.

The Taiwanese minister, Connan Hong, who is accompanied by a delegation of experts, is visiting Jordan at the invitation of the Jordanian government to provide technical advice and consultation on a number of development projects to be implemented in the Kingdom, according to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

King Hussein thanked the delegation for their government's assistance to Jordan and heard from its members a briefing on the experts mission.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan met Mr. Hong and his accompanying delegation and discussed prospects for Jordanian-Taiwanese cooperation.

Employment of science and technology used in Taiwan in fields related to Jordanian industry and investments were reviewed at the meeting, which was attended by Minister of Planning

Ziyad Fariz and the President of the Royal Scientific Society Dr. Hani Al Malki.

Also reviewed at the meeting held at the Royal Court were matters that should be given priority such as education, natural resources, free industrial zones and telecommunications, with a view to upgrading the efficiency of their staff and improving their scientific and industrial standards.

Prince Hassan, who is also president of the Higher Council for Science and Technology, stressed the need for giving support to such matters as industrial and production management, which have taken on added importance in view of their role in promoting industrial performance.

According to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, the Taiwanese delegation is scheduled to visit the Sahab Industrial City near Amman, the Natural Resources Authority, the Telecommunications Corporation, the HCST, the Royal Scientific Society, the Arab Potash Company (APC) and other installations to discuss prospects for future cooperation between Jordan and Taiwan.



RELIGIOUS GATHERING — His Majesty King Hussein conferred at the Royal Court Saturday with heads of Christian communities in Jordan, expressing his deep pride in their services to Jordanian society. In welcoming the bishops, the King stressed Jordan's keenness on enhancing unity among the Christians and Muslims of Jordan, noting that this has always been Jordan's policy over the years. King Hussein asked the bishops about their communities affairs, noting that Muslims and Christians were together struggling to ensure continued freedom for the holy city of Jerusalem, the city of peace. Those present, Roman Catholic Patriarch of Jerusalem Michel Sabbah, Greek Orthodox Patriarch Diodoros, the Armenian Patriarch of Jerusalem Archbishop

Torkom Manoungian and Roman Catholic Bishop in Amman Salim Al Sayegh, voiced their delight over the visit. They described it as one of cordiality and allegiance. They said that the visit reflected the Christian communities confidence in and love for King Hussein as a leader and father of a united Jordanian family. The heads of the Christian churches said that Christians had been living in Jordan and Palestine in an atmosphere of affection and tolerance with their Muslim brothers, forming a united family. They also voiced their appreciation to the King for his continued concern over the affairs of all communities in the Kingdom. Present at the meeting was Chief of the Royal Court Adnan Abu Odeh.

Government cracks down on firms producing low quality products

AMMAN (J.T.) — Several distributors of oil products and fuel have been referred to court for trial for cheating on the amounts of fuel sold to the public, according to an announcement Saturday by the Ministry of Industry and Trade's Specifications and Measurements Department (SMD).

Oil trucks owned by these distributors have been confiscated and others have had their metres sealed with red tape while the distributors have been banned from operating their businesses until the courts decide on the penalties against them, according to a SMD spokesman.

The spokesman said that SMD inspectors will maintain inspection of the petrol stations and fuel distributors seeking to prevent any manipulation of fuel sales. If found guilty by the court, any of these fuel distributors can be fined up to JD 500 and imprisoned for at least one month, the spokesman noted.

He said that the SMD was

determined to prevent any cheating on fuel sales.

The SMD, which was established in 1972, has been entrusted with the task of preparing national specifications and standards designed to control the quality of manufactured products to ensure their competitiveness in the face of foreign-made products. It is also supposed to guarantee that all merchants or traders in various products, adhere to the set of rules regarding specifications and standards.

The department director, Hassan Al Saud, said that since its establishment, the department has issued 800 specifications dealing with locally-produced or imported products and has developed methods for testing products' quality.

As a result of strictly adhering to these regulations, the majority of Jordanian products are now of high quality and are capable of competing with similar products in Arab and foreign markets, Mr. Saudi noted.

But, Mr. Saudi added, there are some small factories which are not adhering to these specifications and standards due to lack of proper means to help them maintain control on quality on a permanent basis.

Mr. Saudi said that the SMD was trying to force all factories, large or small, to comply with the regulations by banning their products from local markets unless they adhere to given specifications.

Factories which violate the rules are normally issued warning but subsequent violations might prompt the department to order the factory closed.

According to Mr. Saudi, the SMD has so far issued specifications and standards related to foodstuffs, chemical products, building materials, electrical products and appliances.

To maintain control, said Mr. Saudi, the SMD has appointed permanent representatives at all customs centres to take samples of products for testing.

Costs of desalinating water prohibitive for Jordan, minister says

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan has reasonable amounts of water resources like springs and underground reservoirs but the cost of exploiting these resources is comparatively high since the country has no cheap sources of energy, Minister of Water and Irrigation Samir Kavar said Saturday.

Purification or desalination of water for domestic, industrial and irrigation purposes can be costly, he said. Should the Kingdom face serious water shortages it would have to resort to desalinating water, especially for drinking purposes, the minister noted in a keynote address to a two-day symposium on brackish seawater desalination and recycling of used water.

To carry out desalination of water, Jordan will have to rely more heavily on the work of research centres, which ought to take the initiative in seriously striving to find technological means not only to obtain the desalinated water but also to reduce the cost of the desalination process, the minister noted.

The symposium, organised by the Higher Council for Science and Technology (HCST) and the Metito Group of Companies is expected to review five working papers dealing with wide ranging topics related to water use.

A total of 180 participants are taking part in the symposium, representing ministries, universities, private companies as well as specialists in the water fields who will be discussing means of developing water resources for all purposes.

In his address at the opening session, the minister said that



Samir Kavar

water is given priority due to its importance for socio-economic and industrial development. Jordan, he said, is attaching importance to national awareness in view of the scarcity of water in the country, the continued population growth, industrial and agricultural expansion and the improvement of the standard of living in the country.

This symposium coincides with national efforts directed at finding sufficient water resources to meet the growing needs of the country. It is hoped the symposium will offer new ideas to help solve the water issue, the minister noted.

Mr. Kavar said 65 per cent of the people of the Arab World receive water from resources lying outside their national boundaries and that 24 per cent of the Arab population does not have rivers on which they can depend on for constant supplies. In addition to these difficulties,

Jordan faces scarcity of natural resources like energy and arable lands for agriculture which means that the country should exert more efforts to meet the challenge, the minister pointed out.

Jordan, the minister noted, considers water as a precious strategic commodity and the Water Ministry is therefore taking all possible measures to ensure economic use of water for various uses.

At the same time, he said, proper measures are being taken to protect existing water resources from pollution. Should the need arise, recycling of water can be a technique to which the country might resort, especially for irrigation purposes, he added.

Another speaker at the opening session was Dr. Abdullah Toukan, HCST secretary general, who spoke about the continued drain on the traditional water resources in Jordan. He said this problem, together with the per capita increase of water consumption, call for Jordan to start looking for alternative water resources.

Metito representative Farouk Ghandour addressed the meeting and noted that Jordan faces a real water problem. Although sufficient rain water fell in the country recently, Jordan still faces a shortage as its underground water level estimated at 95 million cubic metres.

Mr. Ghandour urged the concerned authorities to step up efforts to find alternative resources and to resort to desalination of sea water and recycling used water as means of meeting the water challenge.

Sharif Zeid to review public freedoms report

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker Saturday received a report on the general public freedoms situation in the country and promised the government's full study on the report.

According to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, the prime minister was handed the report by the Public Freedoms Committee of the Lower House of Parliament.

He expressed understanding the situation, the agency reported.

Sharif Zeid has promised to follow up the various cases mentioned in the committee's report and stressed the importance of continued cooperation between the executive and legislative authorities to safeguard the public interest, Petra said.

Presenting the report to the prime minister were House Speaker Abdul Latif Arabiyat and Committee Chairman Ibrahim Khreisat in the presence of Deputy Prime Minister and Education Minister Thougan Hindawi and Minister of Transport Ali Suheimat.

No details were given by Petra about the contents of the report.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Jordanian-North Korean ties reviewed

AMMAN (Petra) — Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Transport Ali Suheimat received Saturday North Korean ambassador to Jordan Jung Sok Ung and discussed with him scopes of cooperation between Jordan and North Korea in the various fields. Mr. Suheimat stressed to the ambassador Jordan's desire to enhance economic cooperation between the two countries and called for increasing Jordanian exports to North Korea. He briefed the ambassador on the Jordanian market's needs of spare parts which could be imported from North Korea. The ambassador was also received by Interior Minister Jawdat At Shoul. The meeting called for promoting bilateral cooperation between the two countries.

APC donates JD 20,000 to university

IRBID (Petra) — The Arab Potash Company (APC) has contributed JD 20,000 to Yarmouk University to support the university's scientific programmes and plans. University President Ali Mahafza sent a letter to APC's director general to thank him for the contribution.

House committee to review foreign affairs

AMMAN (Petra) — The Foreign Affairs Committee at the Lower House of Parliament will hold a meeting Monday under the chairmanship of Deputy Husni Al Shayay. The meeting will discuss foreign threats against Libya, the situation in Yugoslavia, the European Parliament's stand on the situation in the Middle East and the continuation of economic sanctions on Iraq. The House's Education Committee will meet on Tuesday under the chairmanship of deputy Yusef Al Azem. The committee will discuss the 1988 Education Law No. 27.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ☆ Art exhibition by Her Royal Highness Princess Wijdan and Italian ambassador to Jordan Franco de Courten at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation Gallery — 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- ☆ Exhibition of the activities of the Goethe Institute in Amman at the institute, Jabal Amman.
- ☆ Exhibition of paintings by Alia Shanti Amoura at Alia Art Gallery.
- ☆ Art exhibition by Kamal Jawhari at the British Council.

SEMINAR

- ☆ Seminar conducted by the director of the British Council on "Teaching Pronunciation of English" at the British Council — 5:30 p.m.

FILM

- ☆ Feature film entitled "Amadess" at the American Centre — 7 p.m.

New military course introduced

AMMAN (Petra) — Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Field Marshal Fathi Abu Taleb opened Saturday at the Royal Command and Staff Academy a military course which qualifies officers participating in it to get a bachelors degree in military sciences.

Field Marshal Abu Taleb delivered an opening address in which he outlined the role of the Armed Forces in defending the Kingdom. The Armed Forces, he said, has carried out its pan-Arab and national duties in the best manner under His Majesty King Hussein's directives.

The chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff stressed the need for the army to follow up developments in military sciences.

British Embassy Annual Notice To All British Nationals Living In Jordan

Have you registered with the British Embassy. If you are a British citizen and live in Jordan please contact the British Embassy, Consular Section, in order to obtain a registration form.

If you have registered during 1991 please confirm your continuing presence in Jordan by re-registering as soon as possible. Please also notify the Consular Section about any changes of address and/or telephone number. Such confirmation is in the interests of all British nationals in Jordan.

If names are not re-registered within three months the Embassy will be obliged to consider that those concerned have left the country. The names will accordingly be deleted from the register.

If you are a citizen of a Commonwealth country which does not have an Embassy or Consulate in Jordan please ask the British Embassy, Consular Section, about registration formalities.

The British Embassy is located in Abdoun, near the Orthodox Club. Telephone 823100. The Post Office Box Number is 87.

The Consular Section is open from Sunday until Thursday 0830 - 1200 hours.

Organisation to finance two agricultural projects in Kingdom, official says

AMMAN (J.T.) — The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), which is affiliated with the Rome-based U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), has promised to finance two new Jordanian agricultural projects and to continue to finance existing projects.

This was announced by Ghalib Abu Arabi, Ministry of Agriculture secretary general, upon his return from Rome where he led Jordan's delegation to the IFAD meeting.

The meeting was for the IFAD's Council of Governors and was attended by 117 countries out of 146 member states, Mr. Abu Arabi noted.

Several administrative and financial issues and IFAD's future plans were reviewed. The delegates endorsed the fund's 1992 fiscal budget and elected a new board, Mr. Abu Arabi added.

He said that special attention

was given to the fund's strategy on promoting economic life for rural women in developing countries.

Mr. Abu Arabi discussed separately with IFAD's director projects being financed by the fund in the Kingdom and submitted Jordanian government plans for two more projects for which the IFAD director gave initial approval.

According to Mr. Abu Arabi, one of the projects pertains to sheep fattening while the other concerns the development of pasture lands and collecting rain water behind dams.

USAID/JORDAN is seeking expressions of interest from qualified Jordanian technical consultants in the below listed areas for possible short-term contractual assignment to participate with a team of U.S. contractors in:

1. The preparation of a water management and conservation plan.
2. The preparation of the water quality improvement and conservation project document.

A detailed scope of work of the proposed 2 phase project is available on request.

The consultants required must have a recognised expertise on water related issues. The anticipated level of efforts follows:

Phase I SKILLS REQUIRED

- 1) Water & Wastewater Engineer
- 2) Economist
- 3) Hydrologist
- 4) Public Administration Specialist
- 5) Agriculturalist

PERSON-DAYS (APPROXIMATE)

- 17 (during February - April)
- 17 (during February - April)
- 15 (during February - April)
- 26 (during February - April)
- 22 (during February - April)

Phase II

- 1) Hydrologist
- 2) Water/Wastewater
- 3) Agriculturalist

- 18 (during May - June)
- 18 (during May - June)
- 18 (during May - June)

Interested individuals with at least 10 years experience should submit Curriculum Vitae to the EXO/USAID/Amman, P.O.Box 354. Telephone No. 604171.

English language (speaking/writing) is prerequisites. The submittal date shall not be later than February 4, 1992.



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YOU MUST HAVE:

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- A high standard of education and presentation
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- Current driving licence
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The General Manager
DHL Worldwide Express
P.O. Box 927111 - Amman

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

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The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

Bridge to a role

THE AMERICAN Jewish delegation, currently visiting Jordan, did the right thing to visit several pivotal Arab capitals before proceeding to Israel today. To begin with, the timing of this fact-finding mission by members of the New York-based American Jewish Congress could not be more opportune in view of the fact that the much heralded Arab-Israeli peace negotiations appear headed towards early deadlock over Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's settlement policy in the occupied territories and his repressive measures against Palestinians under occupation. Shamir is also defying the whole world and not only the Arab side by rejecting the land for peace formula and offering instead his peace for peace option.

With this in mind, the question poses itself of how the visiting delegation can contribute to preventing the peace talks from reaching the inevitable deadlock. We think there is a great deal that they can do simply because the Jewish community in the U.S. has both influence and clout with Israeli governments and Israeli leaders in general. The organic link between Israel and American Jews cannot therefore be challenged by neither Shamir nor any of his Likud partners who often act and make far-reaching policy decisions in isolation of the long range interests of the Israeli people themselves and the whole region with them.

Having championed moral causes on a worldwide scale, the American Jewish leaders can be expected to comprehend the moral dimension of the Palestinian case and the Arab concerns. There can be no escape from the conclusion that real justice has been done to the Palestinians and it must be rectified. Can anybody be blind to the plight of the Palestinians and to the denial of their existence by Israel? On the issue of the long term interests of Israel, can there be any doubt still that only through the achievement of just and permanent peace in the Middle East Israel can assure for itself a permanent place and role in the area? Can there be any doubt in the mind of any responsible person that without peace in the Middle East, the entire region would drift willy-nilly towards radicalisation, extremism and the proliferation of mass-destruction weapons?

From what our people can sense, Shamir and his extremist partners in the government are not amenable to reason and common sense. They are simply too intoxicated by the raw power that Israel now enjoys and by the historic changes in the world and shifts in regional balance. Wise and responsible Jewish leaders can and should strive to change this self-centred and short-sighted perspective by telling the Israeli leadership that their bargaining power must be invested to attain true and lasting peace and not to buy time until another war erupts. The Arab side has made a strategic decision in favour of an honourable and guaranteed peace based not only on what the Arabs aspire to but also on the will of the community of nations and international legitimacy. Let's not miss this unique and historic chance. The visiting Jewish leaders cannot ignore their duty towards the current opportunity for peace. The Arab side, as they must have already done, would welcome any positive role that they can play in these trying times. Hopefully they will travel to Israel today more convinced than ever of the Arab sincerity about peace and they will carry this message with them loud and clear.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

THE PAST year, 1991, was the first year in the life of the so-called new world order during which Israel was helped by the United States to build three times more settlements than any time in the past, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily Saturday. During 1991 the United States destroyed Iraqi homes and killed thousands of people in addition to demolishing Iraq's economy, places of worship and other installations in the name of the new world order, the paper said. In fact, the United States is Israel's accomplice in killing the international legality, which Washington continues to brag about, because it is financing the construction of Israeli settlements in the occupied Arab lands. At the beginning, Washington had described the settlement programmes as illegal action; later it called it an obstacle to peace, said the paper. But under Zionist pressure the United States did not only remain silent about these settlements, it also offered hundreds of millions of dollars to finance them to enable Israel to absorb the Jewish immigrants from Europe, the paper added. It said that Washington is helping Israel in its defiance of the world community and U.N. security resolutions concerning the occupied Arab territories and, therefore, it is impossible to trust the American policy of mediation to arrive at a just solution to the Palestinian issue. As long as the Americans are harbouring evil intentions against the Arabs, said the paper, the Arabs have no confidence in Washington's promises and policies which are indeed oriented towards enabling Israel to pursue its aggression on the Arab World.

A columnist in Al Dustour daily laments the present pitiable situation in the Arab World which, he said, is incapable of coping with Israel's achievements at the international and regional levels. By establishing diplomatic relations with China, the Israelis have thus deprived the Arabs of an ally, and extended its arms to a new corner of the globe, said Mohammad Kawash. The writer said that under the so-called new world order, Israel, helped by the United States first restored its diplomatic ties with African countries, then invaded Eastern Europe and at last it succeeded in establishing ties with China. In contrast, he said, the Arab front has been in retreat all the time, with the Arabs losing ground to their adversaries simply because they are divided and at a loss. The writer said that the hardest blow of all came will a recent U.N. General Assembly resolution cancelling an earlier decision of equating Zionism with racism, at a time when the Israelis continue to occupy Arab lands in defiance of all principles. On the domestic front, the writer said, the Arabs are so divided that the Islamic countries were motivated to declare their opposition to ending the sanctions imposed on Iraq and to decide on the cancellation of jihad (holy war), thus stemming all Arab attempts at regaining their usurped territory.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

Public corporations should be reformed

IT does not make sense to focus all the attention on the reform of the central government economics and the rationalisation of its revenues and expenditures through the budget while at the same time ignoring the alarming situation of some public corporations, simply because they do not publish their annual balance sheets and do not reveal their shortcomings to the public opinion.

Four public corporations were important enough to draw the attention of the economic adjustment programme, which called specifically for the overhauling of their structures. The four corporations are Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA), Jordan Water Authority (JWA), Aqaba Railway and the Royal Jordanian (RJ). The four corporations were found to be heavy burdens on the public finance instead of contributing to the financing of the state or at least covering their own costs.

As far as the Electricity Authority is concerned, a review of the price unit of its product is overdue. JEA obtains fuel at a subsidised price, yet it sells power to distribution companies at big loss. Thus JEA is neither able to cover its cost nor to service its debt. It needs external financing, either directly from the treasury or under its guarantee.

The Water Authority has an unhealthy financial structure. It is obliged to use uneconomical tariffs. It fails to maintain its equipment efficiently, collect its debts from consumers, expand its services or

service its huge debt which is far beyond its capacity.

Aqaba Railway was meant to perform one job: the transportation of phosphate from the mines to the port. It has an incompetent administration, inefficient maintenance. It has recently adjusted its prices at the expense of Jordan Phosphate Mines Company. This eliminated its losses for the time being, but losses may return soon unless the corporation is reformed administratively, technically, and financially.

The Royal Jordanian airline has a severe financial deficit which accumulated over years and could not be ignored indefinitely. The solution, of course, is to privatise the corporation. But before such a step may become feasible, the airline must be turned around to financial profitability, which is not happening.

The government has made a written commitment in the letter of intent to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to reform the four corporations during the first year of the programme, 1992. It is too early to judge if the government is serious about it and whether it has the will to perform the surgical operations long overdue.

No doubt the correction measures must give full consideration to pricing public commodities on economical basis, especially where the scarce sources of water and electricity are concerned. However, it is not fair to stop there. Not only because there is a

limit to how much you can charge consumers who were trained to expect subsidies, but also because these corporations need fundamental alterations in order to reduce their running cost before transferring it to the shoulders of the public.

Jordan Electricity Authority, for instance, has installed excessive equipment to generate electricity, at least double the real needs of the country. This, of course, doubled the capital cost and needs of the country. The Water Authority is delivering and selling less than half the water produced and pumped; the other half is wasted and runs to the streets or leaks to the ground due to inefficiency and bad maintenance. It is not fair to ask the consumers to pay for the unnecessary waste. Aqaba Railway has an old track, had rolling equipment, which is underutilised and undermaintained. The Royal Jordanian airline is stuck with a fleet that is too big and too expensive for its operations and for the norms of the air transport market.

The distortions and inefficiencies that plague the Jordanian economy are not confined to the macro level only. There are equally harmful distortions and inefficiencies at the micro level, in the structures and operations of certain economic sectors and units of production run by the government.

Israel targets Galilee village for destruction

AMID the fierce debate about Israeli plans to settle Soviet immigrants in occupied Arab territories, the fate of Arabs inside Israel's internationally recognised borders also hangs in the balance. While the Bush administration has linked approval of Israel's request for \$10 billion in loan guarantees to a halt in Israel's settlement policy in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, there is evidence that Israel intends to dislocate its own citizens to make room for new Soviet arrivals. The inhabitants of the Arab village of Ramya seem to be the test-case for this new resettlement plan.

Located near the Jewish city of Carmiel, Ramya has been home to 17 Bedouin Arab families (100 individuals) for more than fifty years. In existence prior to the establishment of the state of Israel, Ramya has never been officially recognised by the Israeli government, and hence, has been denied basic services such as wa-

ter and sewage systems, electricity and paved roads. Carmiel, which was established on expropriated Arab land in 1966, has witnessed a recent population boom, due largely to the recent influx of Soviet immigrants.

According to the Oct. 2 edition of The New York Times, Carmiel, which has a population of close to 30,000, has absorbed more than 5,000 Soviet immigrants since 1989. As a result of this growth, Carmiel is seeking to expand its city limits to include surrounding lands, including the village of Ramya.

The villagers expressed their willingness to welcome new Soviet immigrants into their community, but the Israeli government decreed they must vacate their land completely. In June, the District Court in Haifa issued an order to evict the residents of Ramya, stipulating that the families must evacuate the village by Sept. 16.

Villagers joined with sympathetic groups and individuals inside Israel to fight the eviction. Arabs and Jews alike came to the defence of Ramya. An article in the New York-based Village Voice quoted Knesset member Shulamit Aloni of the Citizens Rights Movement as saying: "There is no reason or authority to take away the lands of people who have lived there for hundreds of years."

The Committee in Solidarity with the Village of Ramya contacted ADC and other non-governmental organisations to rally support. The Bush administration was asked to intervene in the matter, and a telex bank was established targeting the Israel Lands Administration. The group also asked that messages be sent to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, Housing Minister Ariel Sharon and Carmiel Mayor Adi Eldar. As a result, a local court

delayed the eviction for fifteen days, and on Sept. 26, the Israeli Supreme Court delayed action for two months.

ADC contacted the White House and the State Department to protest Israel's attempt to drive out indigenous Palestinians. In a statement to the press, ADC President Albert Mokhiber said:

"The Israeli government has made it clear that Arabs are not welcome in their homeland. This is the first time in forty years that an Israeli Arab village has been slated for destruction in order to make room for Jews. This confirms the worst nightmare of Israel's Arab inhabitants. Though they have lived as citizens of Israel for the last 43 years, they are now being asked to leave their ancestral lands. Where does Israel expect them to go?" He further asked, "Is this the true intention of Israel's request for \$10 billion in U.S. loan guaran-

tees?" "In a letter to Mr. Mokhiber, a State Department official said the administration had contacted Israeli authorities about Ramya, and would "continue to monitor the situation closely."

Expropriation of Arab land in the Galilee began in 1976. In an effort to set aside land for future Jewish settlement, Arab resistance to the land seizures led to a confrontation on March 30, 1976 which claimed the lives of four Arabs. This event is commemorated annually as "Yaum Al-Ard" — the Day of the Land.

It was also in 1976 that Israeli authorities expropriated the land on which the village of Ramya sits. However, due to Ramya's relatively small size (25 square acres), the government did not claim the land until this year. Ramya's elders, who hold legal title to the land, say they were not notified of the expropriation until this spring. There are an esti-

mated 100 Arab villages unrecognized by the government of Israel, and many Arab leaders fear they may face a fate similar to that of Ramya.

Israeli Housing Minister Ariel Sharon has made public his intentions of sending Soviet immigrants to the Galilee to bolster a waning Jewish population in the area. Arabs currently constitute more than 80 per cent of the population of the region.

The Israeli government has reportedly offered each family one-eighth of an acre of land nearby, however, this would amount to less than one-tenth of the land they now own. Villagers argue it wouldn't allow for growth and that they want to remain on at least a portion of the land marked by the graves of their relatives. The New York Times quoted village Yusuf Sawaid as saying: "We were born here, and we will die here." — ADC Times.

Baker for president in 1996? Battle lines are forming

By Carol Giacomo



James Baker

WASHINGTON — Long before this year's presidential election, battle lines are already being drawn for a more distant political campaign that many experts predict will include U.S. Secretary of State James Baker.

The potential contest was highlighted this month by a series of articles in the Washington Post about Vice President Dan Quayle, who is viewed as likely to succeed President George Bush, now running for a second and final term, in 1996.

"The stage is set, if Bush is reelected in 1992, for a rivalry between Quayle and Baker as Bush heirs, keepers of the legacy," political analyst William Schneider of the American Enterprise Institute told Reuters. The Washington Post series could improve Mr. Quayle's "political lightweight" image, at least in influential circles in Washington if not in the country at large, some analysts say.

But it also gave new details about Mr. Baker which could reflect negatively on that master of avoiding pitfalls. For one thing, Mr. Quayle and his wife Marilyn were said to have been in the 1984 campaign that left the vice presidential candidate unprepared for media queries about his background. This for a time made him liability for Mr. Bush.

The series also reported that

Mr. Baker's political ally and trusted friend of 30 years, Mr. Bush, is often mentioned as presidential material.

The secretary of state's aides do not dismiss a possible future run for the White House but neither do they discount the notion that after years of pressure cooker Washington jobs, Mr. Baker, 61, may retire to his ranch in Wyoming.

If Mr. Baker can win this year and the U.S. economy recovers, Mr. Baker would seem on the face of it to have the advantage over Mr. Quayle. If Mr. Baker loses the election, then "he pulls Baker and Quayle down with him," Mr. Schneider said.

Mr. Baker has had the good fortune to preside over U.S. foreign policy in an era of stunning change that is mostly beneficial to the West, including the fall of communism in large parts of the world.

Although there is ample reason to criticise aspects of U.S. policy in this period, Mr. Baker is more often praised for his deft negotiating skills and pragmatic handling of world events, including arranging Middle East peace talks and aiding Germany's reunification.

When he testifies on Capitol Hill, opposition Democrats vie with Republicans in lauding his accomplishments.

Mr. Baker's formidable resume goes far beyond secretary of state, however. He was White House chief of staff under President Ronald Reagan and also

treasury secretary. He ran Mr. Bush's successful 1984 campaign.

"There's no question he is the most qualified person to be president of the United States in the Republican Party and probably in any party," Mr. Schneider said.

"He knows foreign policy, he knows domestic policy, he knows politics," Where Mr. Quayle is a conservative, Mr. Baker is more like Mr. Bush — a moderate who does what he needs to get a deal.

Mr. Baker's big flaw is what Mr. Schneider calls his "lack of a political common touch." He lost the only election he ever contested, for attorney general back in his native Texas.

State Department reporters who travel with Mr. Baker remark on his inability to warm to ordinary people he meets around the world and wonder how he could ever win a U.S. election.

Unlike Mr. Baker, Mr. Quayle is weak on substance but he has proved to be a "shrewd political actor and should not be discounted by his rivals and competitors," Mr. Schneider said.

Analysis says other Republicans may also run in 1996 such as Defense Secretary Dick Cheney, Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Colin Powell and Housing and Urban Development Secretary Jack Kemp.

They also say that if Mr. Baker decides to run for president in 1996, he may have to resign as secretary sometime during Mr. Bush's next term to raise money and campaign.

Curtain lifts on a crisis of 30 years

By William Scally

Reuters

WASHINGTON — As the Soviet Union disappears into history, newly-released documents are shedding light on a mystery that has lingered since the two superpowers came close to nuclear war nearly 30 years ago.

The previously-secret letters exchanged by U.S. President John Kennedy and Soviet Leader Nikita Khrushchev during the 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis show Mr. Khrushchev requested — but did not receive — a formal U.S. pledge not to invade the communist-ruled island.

The letters show how the two leaders handled the aftermath of the crisis that arose when the United States found the Soviet Union was building launch sites for missiles able to reach the American mainland.

Historians have long wondered how firmly Washington was committed not to attack Cuba. Conservatives have called repeatedly for the release of documents to settle the issue.

The letters released last week show Mr. Kennedy did not go beyond a message to Mr. Khrushchev laying out a formula to resolve the crisis. Mr. Kennedy told Mr. Khrushchev on October 27, 1962 that the United States "would agree... to give assurances against an invasion of Cuba."

He added: "I am confident that other nations of the Western hemisphere would be prepared to do likewise."

The following day Mr. Khrushchev seized on the qualified pledge as sufficient to obviate the need for the missiles, which he said were purely defensive.

That in essence ended the crisis — six days after Mr. Kennedy ordered a blockade of Cuba and the superpowers seemed on the brink of war. On November 2, Mr. Kennedy announced the missile bases were being dismantled.

Mr. Kennedy's letter containing the crucial assurance and Mr. Khrushchev's reply were published by the State Department in 1973, but later exchanges between the two leaders remained secret until last week.

The letters show that Mr. Khrushchev accepted "your assurance that the United States and its allies will not invade Cuba" but also asked for the commitments to be made in formal documents at the United Nations.

But no further commitment was forthcoming, although Mr. Kennedy said in a November 21 message that there was no need to fear any invasion of Cuba

"while matters take their present favourable course."

The United States never repeated its military attempt to topple President Fidel Castro's government after the disastrous U.S.-backed Bay of Pigs invasion by Cuban exiles less than three months after Mr. Kennedy took office in 1961.

Planning for that operation had been under way during the administration of President Dwight Eisenhower and its botched execution was a blot on the new Kennedy administration.

In contrast Mr. Kennedy's skillful handling of the missile crisis brought him wide acclaim.

However, conservatives have long called for release of the letters, implying they might have shown that Mr. Kennedy had made a secret deal and had been weaker in the crisis than appeared publicly.

"These letters... definitely offer a lot of evidence that that wasn't the case," said Tom Blanton, deputy director of the National Security Archives, a non-governmental research institute that had sought release of the letters.

Mr. Blanton said it was still not known whether a secret deal might have been struck verbally. But the fact that neither leader mentioned such a deal in letters they assumed would be secret for many years weighed against its existence.

He suggested Mr. Khrushchev's eagerness to accept Mr. Kennedy's offer showed he wanted to back away from his confrontation with the United States after realising he had made a gross miscalculation based on the West's passive acceptance of the building of the Berlin Wall.

Yet Mr. Khrushchev's letters also reveal a statesmanlike side, reflecting that the agreement to compromise had taken in the conviction that "mankind would never forgive the statesmen who would not exhaust all the possibilities to prevent catastrophe (nuclear war)."

In his long, rambling letters, Mr. Khrushchev clearly showed an admiration for Mr. Kennedy that had been lacking when he met the young new president at a summit in Vienna in June, 1961.

He predicted that Mr. Kennedy would win a second four-year term as president "which would appeal to us."

But Mr. Kennedy was assassinated on November 22, 1963.

Mr. Khrushchev was ousted from power and sent to enforced retirement 11 months later. He died in 1971.

The plastic way to pecs appeal

By Liz Hunt

THE man with the perfect "pecs" gazed reverentially into the mirror. The lean and finely muscled body, bronzed by the Californian sun, was a match for anything in a Calvin Klein ad.

He studied the new, tauter, broader chest that was his latest investment. No longer did it sag in that disgusting middle-aged way. Who would have guessed that just a few slivers of silicone could make such a difference? And he loved the way it made his stomach look flatter, his hips narrower, his arms bigger.

He turned sideways on and considered his butt; perfect. The surgeon had achieved just the right degree of curvature in each cheek to emphasise the solid musculature of his thighs. He was well pleased as he headed for the shower.

He paused; something was not quite right. Those calf-muscles were... well, feeble. They lacked definition; they were wimpy, unmanly. Panic struck at his heart. What could he do? Why hadn't he noticed before? Signing, the man with the perfect pecs reached for the telephone...

Cosmetic surgery — once the preserve of women pressured into looking ever younger, prettier, thinner and fitter — has now been taken up by American men — for much the same reasons. Beautiful men with beautiful bodies are a common feature of advertise-

ments, while in a shrinking job market the better you look, the better your chances of employment.

In the shadow of AIDS, dating is no longer a carefree pastime. People are having to work harder to find partners, and men in steady relationships want to stay there. Keeping a woman's interest is paramount, and a decent body helps.

Between 1984 and 1988 cosmetic surgery for men rose by 69 per cent in the United States and men now account for 16 per cent of plastic surgeons' lists. But they want more than face-lifts, nose jobs or chin implants. They want to refine and define what nature — and regular work-outs — cannot. Business in pectoral, calf and buttock implants is booming.

Members of the American Society of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeons performed more than 100 pectoral and buttock implants and around 300 calf implants in 1990. The society expects demand to grow as the word spread from the West Coast, where the cult of the body beautiful is all-pervasive.

Plastic surgeons in California have developed and perfected the techniques. Dr. Brian Novack, in Beverly Hills, is a proponent of the "Arnie" (as in Schwarzenegger) — the pectoral implant.

The operation takes two to three hours and leaves the patient with a few days' pain and discomfort. An inch-long incision is

made in each armpit, and the implant — a solid but pliable lozenge of silicone — is inserted in each side. It fills the space between the pectoralis major and pectoralis minor, the fan-shaped muscles of the chest, to create a natural-looking shape.

Most of Dr. Novack's clients wanted Arnies for cosmetic reasons. Many are men with neither the time nor the energy to work out to develop that "pumped-up" look. Other clients, recreational body-builders, pay the \$7,000 fee because their work-outs did not have the desired effect.

One, a rock star, was the lead singer of a band whose members would rip off their sweat-soaked shirts in mid-performance. He felt that his pecs were punier than his colleagues', and resorted to surgery.

A university administrator had his Arnie in October last year. He is delighted with his new pecs, and said the initial discomfort was worth it.

"I couldn't lie on my stomach or on my sides for about two weeks. But I think that they are wonderful. Nobody can tell what you have had done — no visible scars. The few times I've had my shirt off, people have said to me, 'Boy, you sure are working out lately.'"

Kennedy, an actor who lives in Hollywood, had a congenital abnormality affecting one side of his chest. He had a pectoral

implant last year. "The more I lifted weights, the more I saw I couldn't develop the left side to match the right." He is happy with the results; however, one drawback is that the implant is hard to the touch, like a piece of bone.

Dr. Adrian Aiache, another plastic surgeon from Beverly Hills, specialises in calf implants. He has three categories of patients; young women who complained of stick legs; people whose legs are underdeveloped or malformed due to polio or injury; and amateur body-builders.

"The calves don't usually respond to exercise as well as other muscles, and even those who work out intensely and regularly often cannot achieve that lean, well-defined, muscular look," he said. "Of course, the use of implants will disqualify a body-builder from competition, but it is a good alternative for those who are seeking only to look better."

Calf muscles take just 30 minutes to beef up at a cost of up to \$5,000. An incision of one to one-and-a-half inches is made in the fold at the back of knee, and two implant pockets are created beneath the skin and fibrous tissue and over the thickest part of the muscles. The semi-firm, belly-shaped silicone implants are then slipped in. Sometimes two implants — one smaller and narrower than the other — are stacked inside to achieve the best

shape. "The goal is not just to create a big calf, but to give the leg definition," Dr. Aiache said. "Patients are usually back to their normal routine in a week."

Buttock implants are the most expensive — \$7,500 — and potentially the most troublesome of the new procedures. A small vertical incision — up to an inch-and-a-quarter — is made in the crease of the buttock and the implants inserted on either side. A drain is inserted to remove excess fluid, and the patient has to take things easy for two weeks. "A man who had a very flat bottom just fills his trousers better," Dr. Novack said.

These surgeons have found a lucrative market, but there is concern about the trend. Anne Gorman, a spokeswoman for the American Society of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeons said: "The vast majority of surgeons are leery about this because it is new, and untested in a large group of patients. If a man has this operation because of a deformity, that is fine. But at the moment it is younger men, who work out regularly, putting a lot of wear and tear on the implant, who worry us. No one is sure what the result will be."

The lower leg is prone to poor blood flow and a calf implant could be a seat of chronic infection. No one knows how buttock implants will stand up to being sat on for hours.

Surgeons here are sceptical.



For someone who does not have the time to invest in developing the 'Arnie' look, like the gymnast above, the silicone implant is the latest in men

crazes. Women have no more monopoly on cosmetic surgery; younger and fitter are no more the preserve of women alone.

there are large and powerful muscles in constant motion over them."

But Dr. Novack said there were no dangers associated with the implants he uses, other than usual risks of anesthesia and surgery.

Kennedy, the actor, believes

that implants for men are no different from any other cosmetic treatment: "It is OK to be vain, to strive for more. This procedure is like capping your teeth or putting hair in your hair. What do girls go out and look for? Good-looking hair." — The Independent.

Soaring U.S. murder rate poses election year problem for Bush

By James Vicini
Reuters

WASHINGTON — Drug killings, easy access to high-powered weapons and deadly street gang violence have sent the U.S. murder rate soaring to another record, making crime a difficult election year issue for George Bush.

The Republican president, who has long advocated a get tough approach for criminals while painting the Democrats as soft on crime, must try to find new ways to stem the wave of violence that has swept the United States, administration officials acknow-

ledge.

But private criminal justice experts are sceptical about the federal government's law enforcement efforts. Some predict the murder rate will continue to soar, fuelled by often senseless juvenile killings.

Concern over the issue intensified this month when a congressional study showed there were more than 24,000 murders in the United States in 1991, a record for the second year in a row and 25 per cent more than the 1985 level.

The report said the United States had more than twice as

many murders as the combined 1988 homicides of Canada, France, Germany, Britain and Japan.

In releasing the reports, Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Joseph Biden blamed Mr. Bush for not doing enough to fight violent crime and drugs, a theme likely to be repeated by the Democratic presidential contenders during this year's presidential election campaign.

"Unless we embark on a major offensive against drugs, deadly weapons and violent young criminals, now, the record carnage will continue to skyrocket in the days,

months and years ahead," Mr. Biden said.

Mr. Biden, an unsuccessful Democratic presidential candidate in 1988 but not running this year, took particular aim at Mr. Bush's opposition to pending crime legislation that would create a five-day waiting period for handgun sales.

The administration, in a move calculated to blunt some of the criticism, fired back three days later by announcing a new initiative to crack down on street gang violence.

Attorney General William Barr said the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) would shift

300 FBI agents from chasing spies to battling street gangs in a "peace dividend" for the American people" from the collapse of the Soviet Union and its east European satellites.

"Most of our cities last year experienced record numbers of murders," Mr. Barr said. "We believe a major factor in this violence is an upsurge in the criminal activity of street gangs."

Mr. Barr said the initiative will intensify the government's attack on violent gangs and promised that measures would be taken to step up the attack on violent crime.

But private experts, such as criminologist James Fox of Northeastern University in Boston, doubt that law enforcement alone can solve the problem.

Mr. Fox predicted that the crime wave will continue to rise for the rest of the decade, caused by a larger part of the population entering the crime prone years of the teens and early twenties.

"They have more dangerous drugs in their bodies, more deadly weapons in their hands and above all a much more casual attitude about human life," he said.

"Kids, particularly blacks in

inner cities, have no sense for the future. They have no hope. Things as trivial as a pair of sneakers become an issue of life and death. For black kids, the American dream is a nightmare."

One of the most publicised random killings took place in the Washington, D.C. area a few weeks ago when a woman was shot while in a car driven by her husband on a local expressway.

The accused killer, a 19-year-old black on \$1,000 bail for another murder, was quoted as saying before he pulled the trigger that he just felt like killing

someone.

Mr. Fox said some of the measures backed by Mr. Bush in the crime bill, such as expanding the death penalty for more federal crimes, would have little impact on street crimes that are handled by the state or local police.

He said politicians in general look for the quick, easy solutions, rather than proposing long-term fundamental changes in education and the community.

"Politicians get much more credit if two people are executed," Mr. Fox said. "Being tough on crime will win votes."

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The Indian woman — lifting the veil of centuries

By Uma Vasudev

TO DEFINE the position of women in India is to try and describe a society that defies any generalisation because it exists at so many levels: From the socially backward to one that encompasses the electronic age. Which women should one refer to? The urban, the rural or the regional? The Punjabi, the Bengali, Maharashtrian or Malayali from the 26 states of India with different languages, customs, religions and personal law? Or then women of which class? Upper, middle, lower, or that indeterminate, interchangeable one in which the values of one class are being absorbed into the other with all the heartaches and the emotional hazards which come from the clash between the pulls of tradition and the call of modernity?

For Indian women the battle for legal rights has been won. It is the battle for awareness that is now on. This is quite the opposite of what has happened in Western countries where awareness amongst the woman preceded the struggle to find equality under the law. The women were also alone in their fight for obtaining participatory status in the legal, political and social power equations of their country. In India it was principally the men who led the social reform movements for the

emancipation of women, first from the obscurantist hold of ritualist dogma and cultural distortion, then for political rights and finally when Mahatma Gandhi stormed the scene, non-violently, for active participation by the women in the political movements for freedom. It had its consequent implications. It revolutionised their perceptions even if it was to take time for an impact to be felt on the more practical level. There had been dreams and there was reality. Between them lay the veil of centuries. This was torn apart when under the aegis of the National Planning Committee formed under the Chairmanship of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru on the eve of independence to go into all aspects of India's future policies, the sub-committee on women came out with its determined articulation to forge a change of image.

"We would like to displace the picture so deeply impressed upon the social imagination of man standing forward to conquer new worlds, woman following wearily behind with a baby in her arms. The picture which we now envisage is that of man and woman, comrades of the road, going forward together, the child joyously shared by both. Such a reality we feel cannot but raise the manhood and womanhood of

any nation."

The report came out in 1947, the year of India's destiny. The Constitution underwrote this ambition with its emphasis on an egalitarian philosophy. With Article 14, it guaranteed that "The state shall not deny to any person equality before the law or the equal protection of laws." Article 15 not only prohibits discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth but in Article 15 (3) there is provision for laws to be enacted even in favour of women. Article 51-A (e) states that it shall be the duty of every citizen of India to renounce practices derogatory to the dignity of women. The right to equal pay for all however was a part of the Directive Principles of the Constitution which states the direction towards which society should move and the goals to be achieved. Unlike the women of the U.S. for instance who had to struggle for the Equal Right Amendment Act, 1973 the women of India virtually got it on the platter when the Equal Remuneration Act was passed in 1976 to commemorate International Women's Year. It was the strident voice of women's organisations which have become vocal and effective in the last twenty years which brought about changes also in the Rape Law. Their major success was in having

the rules of evidence amended to the effect that in aggravated cases like gang rape and custodial rape the burden of proof now lies on the accused. Custodial rape invites a ten year imprisonment now as against seven years in other situations. For once it was the men who became vulnerable.

A horrific case of Sati (self-immolation by a wife on the pyre of her husband) took place in Deorala in the State of Rajasthan four years ago almost a century after this nefarious practice had been effectively banned. It was never proved whether the young woman sacrificed herself willingly or was forced to do by violent social pressure. The woman was educated and intelligent which made either her choice or her victimisation seem even more heinous. But the outcry against the happening was widespread in the country and the conscience of India so stricken that angry women's organisations were able to get the lawmakers to rush enact the Commission of Sati (Prevention) Act, 1987. In their efforts however to function within a secular ideology the Constitution makers allowed a dichotomy under Article 25 which guarantees the fundamental right to practice, profess and propagate religion whereby the personal law of each religion can be argued to prevail even if it is

detrimental to women and even if in the process it violates Article 14 which guarantees equality. This has helped traditional belief and religious injunction to keep women trapped in their own subjective conditioning and ignorance.

Yet in India, which is still labelled as a developing country, and is also ridden by considerations of caste, superstition, convention and illiteracy, there can be a basic sense of impartiality and non-discrimination when it comes to the sexes. For instance, India was the first largest democracy to have a woman as prime minister, and first to have women in such diverse and powerful positions as governors of states, judges, ministers, heads of large corporate concerns, engineers, doctors, lawyers and generally what are considered male areas of professional functioning. There are three major reasons.

One is rooted in the subconscious and goes back to the belief in and the worship of the mother goddess and the principal of Shakti, power. The woman in traditional Hindu belief epitomises energy, the creative force of the world. She is not born out of man, but is the other half of man, the ardhagani. If you are used to worshipping the female principle as such how can you think of it as inferior? It means

that somewhere at the back of your mind, no matter how much of a male chauvinist you might be, somewhere there is an adherence to early belief which finds expression: the expression is in the adjustability with which the Indian eventually accepts a woman in an equal job. There are the usual hazards, there are the usual resentments, but once the woman proves her competence, she finds that acceptance.

The second factor that helped women in India was the political circumstances in which the country gained independence and how the women were motivated to participate in large numbers in the political struggle. What happened was unprecedented. Thousands and thousands of women who would have never otherwise dared step out of their homes were out picketing shops, defying British laws, taking out processions, crowding into jails, even having their babies in jail.

The third factor is economic. What happened in Europe after the World War II and the revolution it wrought in the value system and the emergence of women's identity, happened in India with the partition of the land. Almost a million people were uprooted in the decision to carve out another country, Pakistan, from the rib of India. Hordes of refugees, victims of politically

motivated communal frenzy led to such a displacement of old established families that a new moral compulsion emerged — to have women as a necessary economic force. More and more women from traditional families which would have considered it beneath their dignity to let their woman work, began to take up jobs to look after their shattered kin.

Women constitute almost 50 per cent of the population of India. In 1919 when women were first enfranchised there were only 500,000 who were voters. By 1984 and eight elections after independence, women voters numbered 182 million women. If women were to stand as a cohesive body, they would constitute a vote bank which would leave the caste and minorities groups limping far behind in the race for winning influence and exercising pressure. Out of India's ten elections so far, Mrs. Gandhi, a woman, was the dominant figure in four elections, in 1967, 1971-72, 1977 and 1980. But of greater sociological significance was that as a woman in power Indira Gandhi had become a symbol in the way of life of the average woman. "We have lots of Indira Gandhi in our village," one villager confided in me. "any woman who is clever and manages affairs

well in a family is immediately named an Indira Gandhi." One can safely presume that a woman from one such family would have voted for Indira Gandhi and what she stood for because she would feel it was an extension of her own self.

Over the years, this battle for identity which lies at the core of the movement for emancipation of woman all over the world has taken a particularly non-aggressive shape in India. Women have become conscious of being women. But the desire to have equal rights with men has not meant the abrogation of the privilege of maintaining a distinct feminine identity. The realisation of being female is as fundamental to their consciousness as belief in a religion. But whereas caste, religion and region have earned themselves extra advantages, women as a category have not emerged as a pressure group with a separate, identifiable impact on the political process in India. One cannot say for certain that women vote as women. Therefore one can neither say that women would vote for women. In all the general elections since 1967 till 1984 Mrs. Gandhi was the charismatic centre around which has revolved the politics of the entire country.

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Indian economy

By H. Ramachandran
PTI

AFTER months in peril, the Indian economy is back on the rails and the engines of growth have been overhauled. The results have started showing, slowly but surely. Overcoming a series of difficulties at home, accentuated by the Gulf crisis and flights of capital, the Indian economy is looking up. The process of structural reforms have begun yielding results, proving wrong the pundits of doom. The flight of capital is no more there and as a result of some astute moves the foreign exchange reserves, for the first time in the last two years, is comfortable.

The Narasimha Rao government has redeemed the Reserve Bank of India gold worth \$400 million, which was pledged abroad earlier and the State Bank of India gold valued at \$200 million, which was sold with a repurchase option.

Seven months ago when the new government assumed office it faced an unprecedented economic crisis. Foreign reserves had dwindled to 26 billion rupees, barely sufficient for two weeks imports. International commercial banks were refusing to extend new credits. Large outflows were taking place from non-resident Indian deposits. Industrial growth had turned negative because of a severe import squeeze and inflation was accelerating.

The Narasimha Rao government moved swiftly to the job of pulling the economy back from the brink of disaster and set it once more on the path of rapid and sustainable growth. Immediate steps were initiated to restore international confidence, bring inflation under control and ensure a viable balance of payments position. It also demanded structural reforms aimed at strengthening the growth capability of the economy in the medium term.

The government adjusted the exchange rate in July to a new level by as much as 19 per cent with major currencies which would be credible and ensure competitiveness of exports.

The reforms were accompanied by major changes in the trade policy strengthening the incentives for exports and moving

away from the system of import control through licensing to a system where imports would be more automatically linked to export performance through the mechanism of export credits. The government also moved with firmness to reverse the trend of rising fiscal deficits which has plagued the economy for several years.

The budget for 1991-92, presented by the government within a month of coming into office, reduces the fiscal deficit from 8.4 per cent of the gross domestic product in the revised estimates for 1990-91 to no more than 6.5 per cent in 1991-92. This was made possible by a substantial effort at mobilising resources combined with an enormous effort to cut expenditure. Export subsidies now stand abolished, fertiliser subsidy reduced and defence expenditure was restrained.

The measures of short term economic management were accompanied by far-reaching structural reforms in the area of

industrial policy aimed at enhancing productivity and strengthening competitiveness in the industrial sector and promoting an employment-oriented pattern of industrialisation. The policy towards foreign investment was restructured to attract foreign investment especially in priority areas including critical infrastructure sectors such as power.

The government also decided to mobilise additional external financing to provide temporary support to the balance of payments while giving time for macro economic management and structural reforms to yield results. The government negotiated a 2.2 billion dollar standby loan with the IMF. The immediate objective of the new government was to restore international confidence and this was achieved.

Today industrial production is showing signs of growth. The Moody's international credit rating agency, has given a positive report on India, which is expected soon to pave the way for

upgrading the country's credit rating in the coming few weeks. Already several multinational giants like Du Pont, Ford Motors, IBM, General Motors, Coca Cola and Sumitomo Corporation are making an entry into the country in diverse fields. In marked contrast to the age-old practice against foreign investment, India has totally reversed its industrial policy to allow foreign equity participation up to 51 per cent in high priority industries. The threshold limits of industries under the Monopolies and Restrictive Practices (MRTP) act have been removed, allowing for unlimited expansion of existing companies.

Some of the factors dissuading foreign companies from investing in India have been complicated procedures and bureaucratic delays. In the new industrial policy automatic clearance of foreign direct investment, up to 51 per cent of equity in 34 high priority industries has been allowed. Majority foreign equity holding of up to 51 per cent, has also been allowed for trading companies predominantly engaged in export activities. A single window system to facilitate expeditious flow of foreign investment into the

country has been set up in the Reserve Bank of India. For expeditious clearance of proposals and for inviting select international companies to invest in India in appropriate ventures, the government has constituted a foreign investment promotion board, headed by the principal secretary to the prime minister.

In order to deal with another inhibiting factor for the investor — poor state of infrastructure, particularly power, the government and the planning commission have decided to devote special attention to this sector during the eighth plan. Encouragement is also being given to private sector participation and foreign investment in the field of power generation.

The government is also taking a hard look at the function of the banks and the financial institutions, which, according to senior ministers, is far from satisfactory. A high level committee, appointed by the government in a recent report has recommended a more open policy towards foreign banks and lifting of the ban on the setting up of new banks in the private sector. The government hopes to bring down the interest

rates, which were hiked in the wake of the Gulf crisis to curb liquidity; it is likely to be brought down as soon as the prices are held in check. The government expects this to come through in the next few months when measures to curb fiscal deficit start yielding results. A reduction in the fiscal deficit is likely to have a salutary effect on both prices and balance of payments.

On the balance of payments front, the policy of economic reform has already started yielding results. Capital flight outside the country has been effectively stemmed and there is substantial inflow of foreign currency. Foreign currency reserves which had touched an abyssal low of \$1.3 billion in early 1991, rose \$3.5 billion towards the end of the calendar year. Due to the preca-

rious position, the government found its hands tied and compelled to impose heavy import curbs, which led to a decline in industrial production, starved of imported components, raw material and capital goods. The country has turned the corner now, with the reserves picking up substantially, import curbs gradually relaxed. The results are already apparent.

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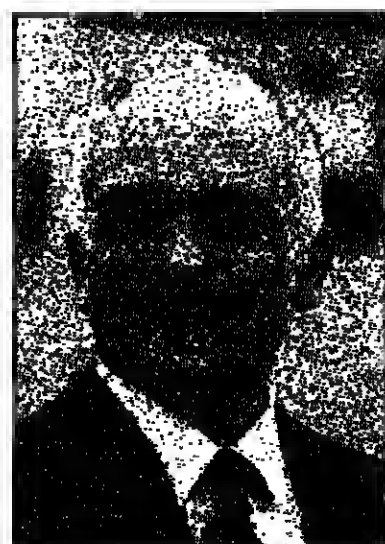
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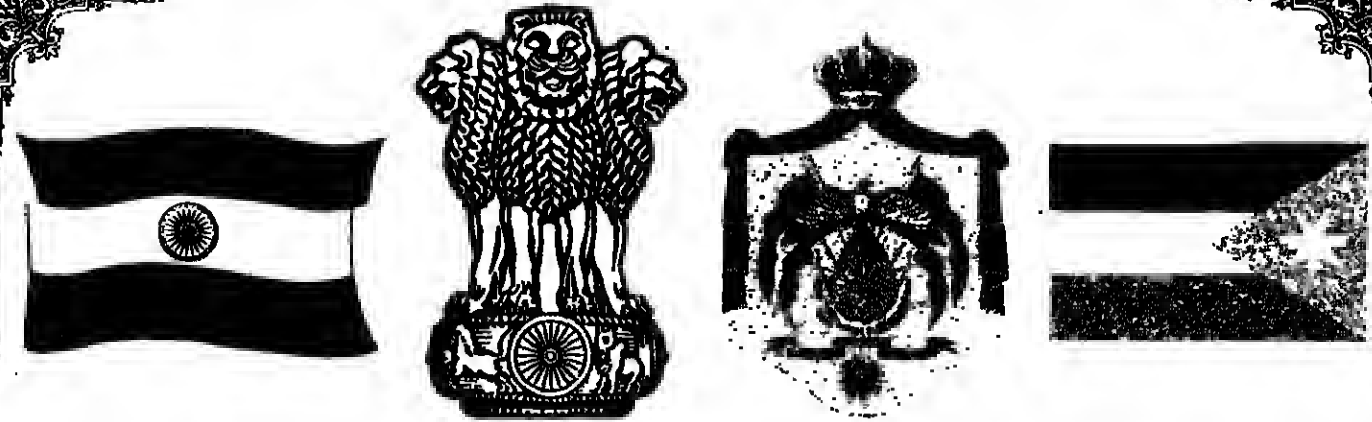
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Seles wins Australian Open final

MELBOURNE (R) — World number one Monica Seles comfortably won her second Australian Open title Saturday and made it clear she would play at Wimbledon this year in her quest for a 1992 Grand Slam.

Seles, 18, picked up the fifth Grand Slam title of her short career with an awesome display of ferocious baseline tennis which saw off seventh-seeded American Mary-Joe Fernandez 6-2, 6-3 in one hour 17 minutes.

The Florida-based Yugoslav, who would probably have won all four titles in 1991 had she not missed Wimbledon, dismissed suggestions she might not play the tournament in 1992.

"As soon as Wimbledon comes and I see people are going to see that I really meant what I said," said Seles, wearing a floppy pink silk and lace bonnet and full-length country-style dress at her post-match press conference.

"I will be going into Wimbledon with an open mind. I do feel I have a great chance. I am returning well but I think the key for me would have to be a great serve," Seles said.

"I really would love to have the serve stronger... basically I still have a lot to improve everywhere."

Seles withdrew from the British tournament last year suffering from shin splints, only to turn up at a lucrative American exhibition tournament soon afterwards.

Her win in Melbourne earned her another \$270,000 took her career earnings to \$4.62 million and showed again that only German number two Steffi Graf, who was a last-minute withdrawal through illness, can beat her on present form.

Graf, who went home sick with what was later diagnosed as rubella, was the last women's player to win the Grand Slam — the Australian, French, U.S.

Opens and Wimbledon — in 1988.

Fernandez, 20, who had scored an upset over the in-form number three seed Gabriela Sabatini in the semifinals, battled valiantly and had game points in the first four games, each of which Seles won to go 4-0 ahead.

"There's a big difference going down 4-0 or being 2-2," Fernandez told reporters.

Fernandez, who had changed her baseline style to attack Sabatini, attempted the same play against Seles but found her fierce hitting off both her double-handed forehand and backhand impossible to combat.

"I was trying but her ball is different from Gabi's, it comes a lot faster and she is hitting angles all the time, opening up the court," Fernandez said.

"She goes for her points one hundred per cent of the time and creates shots from nowhere," she added.

Seles said the game was closer than the score suggested. "It wasn't that comfortable. I was lucky to hold service in the second set at 4-2. I had to produce some great shots for winners," she said.

After breaking Fernandez in the second and fourth games of first set, Seles lost her own service on a double fault but then broke back to love to go 5-1 ahead.

She was not serving well, still suffering from the after-effects of a strained neck muscle on the flight to Melbourne, and was broken again before wrapping up the set when Fernandez netted on her service at 15-40.

The left-handed Seles, the bookmakers' odds-on favourite for the tournament, quickly took a stranglehold on the second set by reeling off the first seven points as she held her own service and broke Fernandez.

With Fernandez making a number of unforced errors, she raced to 4-0 and went on to wrap up the final on the first of two match points when Fernandez hit another limp backhand return into the net.

Seles, who had lost only one match in 11 encounters against Fernandez, was appearing in her 19th consecutive final.

Her opponent, who had lost to Seles in a three-set semifinal 12 months previously, said she had learnt something from defeat.

"I do have to play aggressively to beat the top players... in order to get to the next level it is a step I have to take," she said.

Australia, who lost all their players in the singles events by the fourth round, gained some consolation when fourth seeds Mark Woodforde and Todd Woodbridge won the men's doubles and Woodforde teamed up with Nicole Provis to take the mixed doubles.

Woodbridge and Woodforde beat American 11th seeds Kelly Jones and Rick Leach 6-4, 6-3, 6-4. Woodbridge promptly switched to the other side of the net to team up with Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, but was denied further success when his two compatriots won 6-3, 4-6, 11-9.

Meanwhile world number one Stefan Edberg will be bidding for his third Australian Open title Sunday but he has to overcome the in-form Jim Courier and a Flinders Park jinx to pick up his sixth Grand Slam title.

The open has gone according to script with the top-seeded Edberg and number two Courier facing each other across the centre-court net to battle for the \$270,000 winner's cheque.

The American's stated desire to slip quietly into the final was met when his semi-final opponent, the big-serving Richard Krajicek, pulled out with a shoulder injury only a few hours before he was due on court.

Edberg, 26, playing this tournament after a lengthy lay-off caused by injuries to his knee and right wrist, has steadily picked up his game, beating old rival Ivan Lendl in five sets on the way to hammering Wayne Ferreira in three sets in the semi-final.

"I am feeling good, I have played some really good matches here and was very satisfied by the win over Lendl," Edberg said Friday after his victory over the 20-year-old South African Ferreira, who had ended the heroic progress of veteran John McEnroe in the previous round.

Local bookmakers obviously agree and have made Edberg 7-4 on favourite, with Courier at even odds after being favourite throughout the tournament.

But the brilliant serve-and-volley specialist has been dogged by bad luck in a bid to win his first title at the Flinders park Tennis Centre following his earlier titles on the grass at the previous venue, Kooyong, in 1985 and 1987.

A painful back injury forced him to forfeit a quarterfinal against Austrian Thomas Muster in 1989 and a torn stomach muscle stopped him in the third set of the 1990 final against Lendl.

Last year he double-faulted on match point against Lendl and finally lost in an absorbing five-set semifinal.

Edberg likes playing in Australia and has not dwelt on his misfortune, focusing instead on trying to repeat his 1991 U.S. Open win over Courier in early September.

Sunday's match, the first since 1981 in which the same players have contested the final of consecutive Grand Slam events, is unlikely to produce such an emphatic 6-2, 6-4, 6-0 victory for Edberg.

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Jordan Davis Cup team leaves for Malaysia today

By Aileen Bannayan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Jordanian men's national tennis team played the last of their matches against the visiting Lebanese national team Friday before travelling to Kuala Lumpur Sunday to meet the Malaysian national team in the first round of the 1992 Davis Cup.

In Friday's matches, promising 14-year-old Laith Al Azzam beat Lebanon's Nasib Haddad 6-1, 6-3. Lebanon's Edoni Abu Na'ma beat Saleh Bushnaq 7-5, 6-2, and Karim Khouri beat Jordan's No. 2 Imad Abu Hamda 6-2, 6-3.

In the doubles match, Jordan's doubles champions Hani Al Ali and Saleh Bushnaq beat Karim Khouri and Saeed Karara 6-4, 7-6 (7-4).

On Thursday Ali overcame Edoni Abu Na'ma 6-3, 6-3, 6-2. Abu Na'ma later defeated Laith Al Azzam 6-2, 6-4, while Saleh Bushnaq beat Lebanon's Nasib Haddad 6-2, 6-4.

On Wednesday Jordan's No. 1 seed Ali easily beat his Lebanese counterpart Karim Khouri 6-0 in the first set, but needed to win a 7-4 tiebreaker to secure the second set 7-6.

Lebanon's No. 2 Remon Kattoura beat Imad Abu Hamda 4-6, 6-2, 6-2.

In the doubles match, Karim Khouri and Remon Kattoura beat Ali and Bushnaq 6-2, 4-6, 6-2.

Commenting on the matches in a statement to the Jordan Times, the Jordanian national team's coach Youssef Al Orihi said: "The matches were very beneficial and pointed out some shortcomings and mistakes we hope to avert in our upcoming Davis Cup matches."

"The Lebanese team is very good. We came out even, winning 5 matches and conceding the other five."

"Hani Al Ali is in good shape. He played well and beat Lebanon's No. 1," said the coach adding that he "would have wanted Imad Abu Hamda's fitness to be better because that's the only reason Imad lost his matches."

Meanwhile the Jordan Tennis Federation (JTF) has announced its 1992 schedule which is bound to keep the national team and tennis players in general quite content and busy.

In the first of four tournaments the national team will play abroad, the Jordanian team will face Malaysia in the first round of the Davis Cup. They will later play Thailand or Singapore.

The juniors will play in Qatar in February. In August the national team will take part in Lebanon's tennis championship, after which they will participate in the Arab Sports Tournament in Syria in September.

Local activities are abundant. They include a beginners tournament in March; the first round of the Jordan Tennis Championship in April; the junior's singles and doubles competition in May; the second round of the Jordan Tennis Championship and the mixed doubles open in June; the youth singles and doubles open in July; the men's doubles open and the Federation Cup in August and a training camp in Damascus in September.

The season will be concluded with the third and final round of the Jordan Tennis Championship in October, and the men's doubles and mixed doubles tournaments in November.

Veteran Ghana meets 1st-time finalist Sunday

DAKAR, Senegal (AP) — It will be African soccer's veterans against the new boys in Sunday's final of the African Nations Cup at the Amite Stadium.

For Ghana, it is seventh final appearance in the continent's showpiece, while the Ivory Coast will be playing in their first-ever final. The match also promises a stark contrast in style, pitting the aggression and physical play of Ghana's black stars against the cautious build-up and technical sophistication of the Elephants of the Ivory Coast.

The whole event, though, is clouded by the absence of African Footballer of the Year, Abedi "Pele" Ayew, whose caution in Thursday's semifinal against Nigeria automatically rules him out of the game. It was the second yellow card of the tournament for Pele, and despite an official appeal by the Ghanaian Football Association, he will have to watch his country's bid for a record fifth African title from the sidelines.

Ayew had been the inspiration behind the youthful Ghanaian team, turning around their fortunes in the 2-1 semifinal win over Nigeria, and also scoring three goals in the competition to be the joint leading striker with Rachidi Yekini of Nigeria.

The burden of taking over his midfield role now rests heavily on the shoulders of 17-year-old Nii Lamptey Odaty, who played in Italy last year.

Lamptey has been a pale shadow of his potential at this tournament, but Sunday's final presents the perfect stage to display his extraordinary ability. There will be ample backing from German-based Anthony Yeboah and Tony Baffoe and Prince Polley Opoku, who scored the winning goal in the semifinals.

For the Ivorians, who triumphed in a post-match penalty shootout over Cameroon, there is a race against time to have both captain Saint Joseph Gadjil-Celi and star striker Youssef Fofana fit for the final.

Kankkunen shows his paces in Monte Carlo Rally

MONACO (R) — Finnish world champion Juha Kankkunen, furious after receiving a time penalty Friday, responded in style by recording the quickest times in the first three timed stages of the Monte Carlo Rally Saturday.

Though Kankkunen and his Lancia were faster than anyone else in the field, the Finn's 30-second penalty for arriving late at a time control dropped him to fifth position.

German Armin Schwartz in a Toyota led the way from 1990 Monte Carlo winner Didier Auriol of France, eight seconds behind in a Lancia, with last year's champion Spaniard Carlos Sainz, a further one second back in another Toyota.

Kankkunen, angry after being held up by customs officials at Menton during the run-in to Monaco from Sestriere, Italy, found himself fifth behind Francois Delecour of France in a Ford, 28 seconds behind Schwartz.

The German, choosing the right tyres to negotiate icy patches on the Col de Turini, was fastest on the first stage but Kankkunen fought back and secured a brilliant victory in the third stage in Digne.

He had another three stages later Saturday to close the gap on the leaders, including race favourites Auriol and Sainz. Twice Monte Carlo winner Massimo Biasion hit a roadside spectator near the end of the first

stage injuring him slightly. Former Lancia driver Biasion, now with Ford, lost time and was down in 10th place, one minute 51 seconds behind Schwartz.

Finnish driver Markku Alen crashed out of the Monte Carlo Rally during the fourth of six timed stages Saturday.

Alen's Toyota left the road on a snow-covered stretch of the stage from Eyzagayes to Ruissas and although it was not badly damaged he was unable to get the car back on the course.

The 41-year-old Alen holds the joint record for victories in World Championship Rallyes with 19 successes.

Meanwhile Sainz has warned his rivals he will stop at nothing to recapture the world title he lost last season.

"I want another title badly and I will do everything to get one," said the Toyota driver before Saturday's start of the Monte Carlo Rally, the opening event of the world championship.

"The rally will be very tricky because of the snow in some sections," said Sainz, who won the Winter Classic last year. "The choice of tyres will be ever so important."

"It was only bad luck that made me lose the title," added the 1990 champion beaten last year by Kankkunen of Finland after a series of mishaps late in the season.

After an impressive string of

five wins in the first 10 events, Sainz injured his neck when he wrecked his car in a spectacular accident in Australia last September and then suffered mechanical trouble in the last three events.

"My neck still hurts a bit but it's not too bad," said the Spaniard.

Critics said the 29-year-old Sainz was worn out by too much racing. "It seems to me that the season started three years ago and has never stopped since," he said.

"It's true that I was fed up at one stage but the decision to reduce the number of events will make things easier this year."

The International Motor Sports Federation (FISA) has reduced the number of rounds counting in the World Championship from 14 to 10.

"My motivation is as good as ever," said Sainz, who has proved his ability to drive fast on all kind of terrain by winning such contrasting rallies as the Monte Carlo, the Tour of Corsica and the Portuguese Rally.

The elegant and cool-tempered Spaniard, who comes from an affluent Madrid family, joined Toyota in 1989 and took the world title a year later.

After an impressive string of

"We owe him a lot," said team chairman Ove Andersson. "There are not many professionals like Carlos. He works very hard and is not satisfied until something is really perfect."

Sainz, known for his scientific approach to racing, said he was fully satisfied with the revamped version of the Toyota Celica that is making its first appearance in the Monte Carlo.

"The car is great and better than last year's," he said. "But let's wait and see what the new Lancia's like."

Sainz, well liked on the circuit for his gentle manners when not at the wheel of a car, said aggressive driving was the only way to win.

"You've got to attack from the first timed stage," he said. "You can't win unless you take risks all the time."

He pointed at Frenchman Didier Auriol as the man most likely to stop him from getting his crown back.

"He will be my most serious rival over the whole season because he's capable of doing well in all races," he said of the Lancia driver, third in last year's championship. "He's got experience, motivation and he's very fast."

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY JANUARY, 26, 1992

By Thomas S. Pearson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: You benefit by listening quietly to your own deep seated intuitions and by getting together with experts in their fields to find out how their background of experience can be helpful.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You find it necessary to use more than average care on the highway or in motion in anyway to prevent mishaps and to use your best judgment to avoid mistakes.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Don't try to settle any financial or practical issues facing you today as conditions are changing and your judgment is not at its best.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You are disappointed and want to revise some of your personal plans now but this is just the wrong time to rely upon your judgment regarding such.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You now feel you are in the midst of too many restrictions and limitations and want to break out from under them but you should wait.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Nervous and restless friends and acquaintances can be a pain in the neck to you today if you cry to get them to go along with your intimate aims.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Matters of an outside or worldly nature can be a disappointment to you if you press them so stick to more personal increases and all.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You have all kinds of urges to expand your ideas and activities but today would find you either thwarted now or difficult situations ahead.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Some promises or agreements you have made are not as you now wish but this is no day to yourself alter them and expect others to do this.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You are apt to be with parties upon whom you feel you can not rely or who today are not willing to go along with what you now desire.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 19) You feel you have many little duties to perform but it would be best if you take the day off, rest and relax and study good literature, music.

AQUARIUS: (January 20 to February 19) Now you have a day when you are eager for pleasures and to get out from under depressive lead that you feel is too much for you in bear.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Your home can be a battleground of divergent ideas if you allow it to be and you and family members should concentrate upon loving one another.

"The stars impel, they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you.

THE BETTER HALF

By Harris



JUMBLE

How best should Arab banks merge

By Samir Shafiq
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The oil boom of the seventies has faded away in every economic sector over the years but, it seems, the Arab banks are still suffering from the eclipsed prosperity, a phenomenon which Abdalla Malki described as "the bitter harvest season."

Dr. Malki, lecturing at a seminar organised by the Arab Banks Union at Philadelphia Hotel Saturday, said that bank mergers were deemed necessary primarily by the problem of bad and doubtful debts and non-performing loans, among many other hindering factors which resulted from the downturn of fortunes since the eighties and up to this day.

The seminar, entitled "banking merger," was opened by Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) Governor Mohammad Saeed Nabulsi who outlined five fundamental areas requiring high attention regarding banking merger.

1) The need to restructure and reorganise Arab banking operations internally and externally to bring up new bank units capable to confront the sharp competition under the emerging new world blocs and international legislations and to meet the economic interests of Arab countries.

The CBJ governor explained at this point that the right path to mergers should take off from existing Arab banking practices that must be extended to encompass the overall spectrum and surpass national boundaries. The Arab World is in dire need of a new economic framework, Dr. Nabulsi said, urging as a cornerstone a serious and adequate endeavour towards eliminating restrictions at the national level first, and Arab regional level

second to reach the stage of Arab openness to the outside world.

Dr. Nabulsi specifically mentioned that the first step on the financial side should be the cancellation of internal restrictions, which monopolise the banking operations within the narrow national boundaries, to enable Arab banks to merge and branch out at the Arab market level.

2) The creation of stronger banking units which can be more capable to compete and increase profit without going beyond the track of correct banking norms.

The CBJ chief said that achievement of this end, theoretically, is most probably linked to attaining what he termed "economies of scale," based on what is known as "optimum size" of the banking unit. Dr. Nabulsi went on to say that these theoretical concepts raise the issue of how they can be practically implemented through meaningful standards needed in reality.

3) Differentiating between merger methods and assessing the one that enjoys a better chance of success.

"There are two types of mergers," Dr. Nabulsi said. "One is outside market merger and the other is inside market merger."

He elaborated by saying that outside mergers involve two units operating in two different markets, either geographically or service-wise, while inside mergers cover units operating in the same geographical area or in similar-type markets. Dr. Nabulsi said that the general belief was that inside mergers enjoyed a brighter chance to cut costs and increase profit.

Dr. Nabulsi also differentiated

between two other methods of merger: Voluntary and compulsory.

He explained that since the objective was to minimise costs and maximise profit to face up to crises and turbulences, it would be wiser and more acceptable to have banks realise the situation and merge voluntarily.

However, the governor said that cases of compulsory mergers might be acceptable to the central bank, especially in cases of weak and troubled banks where liquidation would be more costly and burdening.

4) The emergence of a situation where an oligopoly would prevail, especially if the mergers become too many in a small and protected market.

To solve this aspect, Dr. Nabulsi pointed out to Arab markets which, he said, should be opened to provide at the same time more opportunities for mergers and also prevent the quality of competition to decline to a level where an oligopoly would reign again.

5) Mergers are not the magic solution to all challenges facing Arab banking operations, and although important and of interest, they should be looked at as part of a wider strategy to reform the banking sector through higher levels of supervision, increasing the financial resources, updating banking legislations and modernising management techniques.

Dr. Nabulsi highlighted the merger frenziness on the international scene and noted that it was viewed as an effective remedy to stop declining profitability, strengthening the capital base and escaping looming troubles. He gave as examples the merger of huge banks in the United States.

Dr. Malki, an economist and general manager of the Association of Banks in Jordan (ABJ), tackled the subject of merger from a different perspective.

He looked at the calls for bank mergers as being the escape gate of a troubled situation, incapability to compete and mismanagement, cases similar to the ones experienced in Jordan, United Arab Emirates and Lebanon.

Referring to the seventies, Dr. Malki mentioned that no one did complain of overbanking at that time. He said that only when recession befell the region and many banks began faltering or experiencing increased difficulties they found this overbanking concept as the answer to explain the economic squeeze with which they had to struggle.

Dr. Malki, pointing out to many developed countries, wondered why the concept of overbanking wasn't present there even when financial institutions in those countries encountered tremendous problems as well.

"Or is this issue to become only an Arab dilemma?" he asked.

Anyway, rectifying the overbanking phenomenon should depend on "our economic philosophy," he said and suggested choosing from two schools of thought.

He elaborated by explaining that the first school sees overbanking as natural, normal and acceptable in a market economy and, therefore, the market itself would be resolving the issue, while the second school tends to tackle the subject through voluntary or compulsory mergers.

Dr. Malki envisaged a way to balance between the positive and negative aspects of both the ideas. By proposing the system of an institution to guarantee bank

deposits, he said that the problem of small depositors would be solved as both public and private funds would protect the average savings while major depositors would face the responsibility of their banking choice.

Dr. Malki evaluated an important element in bank mergers by bringing up the subject of strengthening the capital base of Arab banks. He saw a problem in attracting new investors, especially when a banking unit faced problems or was unprofitable, as the equity funds are considered as a shield against crises from loans turning sour.

He encouraged the capitalisation of various reserves although, theoretically, the reserves are part of a bank's equity.

Dr. Malki emphasised that bank mergers do not rid financial institutions of bad or doubtful debts or even non-performing loans. He consequently urged the setting up of a secondary market for these categories and maximising collection efforts to ease banking troubles and relax the urgency for mergers.

The ABJ head gave as an example to clean a bank's portfolio the concept of selling up a "bad bank" in the U.S. to undertake the responsibility for sour credits within an ongoing merger process which usually sets aside the aforementioned negative aspects to a separate management.

Dr. Malki drew the attention of the audience of bankers to a gap whereby a clear difference should be noted between the lack of capital adequacy (or a capital shortage) and a liquidity shortage as each one of these two elements reflect varied reasons for a bank's trouble and, consequently, require different remedial action.

Throughout his lecture, Dr. Malki kept reminding the participants in the seminar of the need to keep up the growth in lending and that taking risky credit decision should not be marred by past negative practices which shook the banking sector and caused a rethink evaluation.

The ABJ general manager joked about banks seeking eternal life insurance policies and said that bank failures in Arab countries should be considered beneficial in many aspects.

The lecturer did not dwell only on banks facing troubles, but also repeatedly weighed the merger benefits. However, his remarks were mostly questions pushing for a debate.

He asked whether Arab banks were capable to enter world markets and whether they were in a position to lend internationally. He asked whether the Arab World could absorb the ambitions of the banks.

Noting that a merger should produce a stronger and a healthier bank, not only a large one, Dr. Malki asked what should be the criteria to consider a country as overbanked. He mentioned the size of the population, the number of a bank's branches or its profitability as some standards, in addition to various economic and political conditions of a country.

Dr. Malki said that any merger of banks is not only a legal framework, but also a complex of evaluating the assets, pulling a merger.

He mentioned further merger complexities in the areas of stiff foreign competition, difficulties in monitoring events resulting from modern technologies and the diversified activities of banks outside the banking operations.

Financial Markets

in co-operation with
Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close	New York Close
	Date: 23/1/1992	Date: 24/1/1992
Sterling Pound	1.7850	1.7970
Deutsche Mark	1.6067	1.5920
Swiss Franc	1.4255	1.4130
French Franc	5.4770	5.4255
Japanese Yen	125.85	123.55
European Currency Unit	1.2633	1.2675

USD Per JGD
European Opening at 9:00 a.m. GMT

Interbank bid rates for amounts exceeding 1 U.S. Dollar 1,000,000 or equivalent

European Currency Unit Rates Date: 24/1/1992

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	4.00	4.03	4.12	4.47
Sterling Pound	10.62	10.56	10.43	10.25
Deutsche Mark	9.37	9.43	9.47	9.06
Swiss Franc	7.43	7.37	7.25	7.19
French Franc	9.37	9.37	9.62	9.50
Japanese Yen	5.34	5.05	4.81	4.71
European Currency Unit	10.51	10.00	10.12	9.88

Interbank bid rates for amounts exceeding 1 U.S. Dollar 1,000,000 or equivalent

Precious Metals Date: 24/1/1992

Metal	USD/Oz	JGD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JGD/Gm
Gold	355	6.85	Silver	4.16	.093

* All Rates

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Date: 24/1/1992

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6760	0.6780
Sterling Pound	1.2193	1.2254
Deutsche Mark	0.4262	0.4283
Swiss Franc	0.4748	0.4822
French Franc	0.1247	0.1253
Japanese Yen	0.5450	0.5507
Dutch Guilder	0.3777	0.3796
Swedish Krona	0.1152	0.1158
Italian Lira	0.0500	0.0509
Belgian Franc	0.02056	0.02064

* Per 100

Other Currencies Date: 24/1/1992

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.7440	1.7720
Lebanese Lira	0.0765	0.0774
Saudi Riyal	0.1749	0.1812
Kuwaiti Dinar	-	-
Qatari Riyal	0.1831	0.1844
Egyptian Pound	0.2300	0.2100
Omani Riyal	1.7300	1.7410
UAE Dirham	0.1831	0.1844
Greek Drachma	0.3590	0.3680
Cypriot Pound	1.4735	1.4985

* Per 100

CAB Indices for Amman Financial Market

Index	15/1/1992 Close	22/1/1992 Close
All-Share	133.62	133.16
Banking Sector	109.95	110.09
Insurance Sector	131.26	131.46
Industry Sector	168.35	166.93
Services Sector	150.93	150.46

December 31, 1990 = 100

Figures on household savings, consumer debt in Britain show starkest changes in past 10 years

LONDON (R) — Britons spent their way into the current economic recession with abandon, government figures show.

The 1992 Social Trends report, an official guide to the changing face of British society, illustrates how the nation's 57 million citizens joined a U.S.-led stampede into consumer debt in the mid-1980s.

Statistics from the 250-page compendium, issued by the Central Statistical Office, showed the amount of outstanding consumer debt more than doubled 1981 and 1990 to well over £50 billion (\$90 billion).

Personal savings plunged during the same period to the extent that from 1986, at the height of the consumer credit boom, total household spending exceeded disposable income.

Consumer debt stoked the economy to overheat in the late 1980s, when the Conservative government responded by raising interest rates to tame inflation.

Though rates have since fallen, the recession is still being felt and Prime Minister John Major must hold elections by July with recovery uncertain.

Social Trends is an annual compilation of statistics on a wide range of issues from wealth to leisure activities.

Editor Tom Griffin said the figures on consumer debt and household savings were among those that showed the starkest changes over the past 10 years.

Other entries reflect to what degree Conservative former prime minister Margaret Thatcher, in power from 1979 until 1990, realised her ambition to transform Britain into a nation of shareholding, home-owning entrepreneurs.

Mrs. Thatcher's flagship policy of privatising state industries helped boost the number of adult Britons owning shares to one in four in 1990 compared with one in 13 in 1981.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY NEEDED

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Syria to supply Cyprus with fuel oil

DAMASCUS (R) — Syria will supply 570,000 tonnes of fuel oil to Cyprus in 1992 to feed electricity generators, oil industry sources have said.

They said a contract was recently signed by the heads of Syria's Baniyas Refinery and the Cyprus Electricity Authority (CEA) in Nicosia.

Syria supplied the CEA with fuel oil during the second half of 1991 under a contract signed last year.

Pricing and shipment details were not available.

Syria, a member of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), produces around 450,000 barrels per day of light and heavy crude.

The refinery in the Mediterranean port city of Baniyas produces around 104,000 barrels per day of processed heavy crude.

Bulgaria adopts liberal foreign investment law

SOFIA (R) — Bulgaria's parliament has adopted a liberal law on foreign investment to encourage foreign capital into the country.

Comparing this law with similar ones in other eastern European countries, this is the most liberal bill. It creates most favourable conditions for regulating economic activity," deputy prime minister Eshkenazi, the architect of the bill, said.

The new law allows foreigners to transfer profits from investments, including interest on bank deposits, out of Bulgaria in convertible currency without limit.

It also sets no limits on the size of foreign investments.

Under the new law foreigners have most of the same rights as Bulgarians in setting up businesses and acquiring property.

They can buy land for building but not for farming.

The law does impose restrictions on investment in the manufacturing and trading of armaments, banking and insurance and exploring for and extracting natural resources.

Prime Minister Philip Dimitrov, whose Union of Democratic Forces won a majority in elections last October, has pledged to replace communist-era laws on economic activity, which deterred foreign investors from putting money into Bulgaria.

The law also provides a defence against the expropriation of foreign investments and states that the National Bank and government will issue licences for joint ventures within 45 days to three months of the date of application.

PASSPORT LOST

I, Elizabeth Paulus, lost my passport No. A 794022 issued at Bareilly, India. If anyone finds it please contact P.O.Box 184035 or return it to Indian Embassy.

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Three nights/four days per person JD 29.000 in double room occupancy including breakfast and lunch.
The above rates are subject to 10% govt. tax and 10% service charge.
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HOTEL AQUAMARINA II

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Zaman Al Shakiabah
(Somersault Time)
at 8 p.m.

Bosnia-Herzegovina names date for referendum; Serbs oppose

BELGRADE (R) — The parliament of Bosnia-Herzegovina voted Saturday to hold a referendum on independence that is certain to crush the last breath out of the Yugoslav Federation. But leaders of the 1.4 million Serbs in the ethnically-mixed republic voiced their opposition to the vote and said they would not regard it as binding.

Deputies representing Bosnia's Muslims and Croats agreed after a heated debate lasting through the night to hold the referendum over the weekend of Feb. 29 and March 1. Tanjug News Agency reported.

Serb deputies staged a walk-out before the vote, rejecting any decision that would cut the republic off from Yugoslavia.

The European Community (EC) has said Bosnia-Herzegovina must hold a referendum before the EC would consider recognising it as an independent state.

The EC led moves to recognise Slovenia and Croatia earlier this month.

"The referendum... will not be binding for the Serbs of the Bosnian Krajina," said Radislav

Vukic, a local leader of the Serb-dominated region of Krajina in northwest Bosnia.

Politicians have expressed fears that the seven-month conflict between Croatia, the Serb-led army and Serb irregulars could spill into Bosnia. They say any violence there would dwarf the fighting in Croatia in which 6,000 people have died.

Radovan Karadzic, leader of the Serbian Democratic Party in Bosnia, said this week Serbs in Bosnia would never accept an independent Bosnia.

"This is an option which threatens the Serb nation (in Bosnia) and as such is a war option," he said.

A Yugoslav Railways spokesman said a small explosion in Bosnia-Herzegovina damaged new track connecting the republic with Serbia. An inquiry has been set up but it was not immediately known whether the incident was connected with the referendum vote.

Meanwhile a ceasefire in Croatia's negotiations by the United Nations survived its 22nd day Saturday despite minor violations.

Croatian radio said Machine-gun fire could be heard in the suburbs of the Adriatic port of Dubrovnik and in the town of Sonja south of the Croatian capital, Zagreb.

Croatia sent a protest to the Yugoslav Federal Army on Saturday over continued flights by military jets over Croatian airspace, which it said breached the terms of the ceasefire.

Croatia said Friday it wanted the United Nations to start deploying peacekeepers on its territory within the next 10 days.

Croatian Prime Minister Franjo Greguric said the Serb-led Yugoslav army — which together with Serbian irregulars controls a third of Croatia's territory — should leave the newly-independent republic by late February.

"Our request is that 1,500 to 2,000 (U.N.) troops be sent within the next 10 days... and after that the Yugoslav army should finish withdrawing within two weeks," he told a news conference after returning from talks in New York with U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali.

U.N. Under-Secretary Mar-

rack Goulding arrives in Belgrade Sunday to check conditions for deploying up to 10,000 peacekeeping troops in Croatia.

Leaders of a Serb-controlled region in Croatia, also called Krajina, have made clear they will not lift objections to U.N. plans to replace federal troops in the area with the peacekeepers.

Tanjung said Mr. Goulding would meet Krajina's top two leaders during his visit. Most of the 600,000 Serbs in Croatia want no part of the newly-independent state.

Serbia's attempts to create a new Yugoslavia have been cold-shouldered by Bosnia and the southern Republic of Macedonia, which also wants independence.

Greece is blocking any EC move to recognise Macedonia until it changes its name and renounces any territorial claim on Greece's Macedonia region.

Macedonian Prime Minister Nikola Kljusev said Friday Athens was harassing Macedonian citizens and introducing a blockade of Macedonian trucks as part of a "cold war" against his republic.

Tension mounts between Burma, Bangladesh

COX'S BAZAR, Bangladesh (R) — Tension gripped Bangladesh's main tourist resort Saturday after the army installed anti-aircraft guns in preparation for possible Burmese attacks.

"We are packing up because the area is turning gradually into a military zone," tourist Shamsul Islam said.

The Bangladesh army has dotted the airport at Cox's Bazar with dozens of anti-aircraft guns and radar facilities in case of an air assault from Burma, just 30 kilometres to the east.

"Several squadrons of combat planes are (also) being kept ready at Chittagong Airport, 160 kilometres from here," a military official said.

Convoys of army trucks move towards the border each night while the navy has stepped up patrols in the Bay of Bengal and the Naaf River that forms part of Bangladesh's 270-kilometre border with Burma.

The military ruler in Rangoon has deployed more than 75,000 soldiers along the boundary since Burmese border forces attacked a Bangladesh Rifles camp last month killing one soldier and wounding three, sources said.

The incident provoked a full-scale military alert by Bangladesh which also sent thousands of troops and paramilitary guards to reinforce border positions.

According to military sources, nearly 5,000 Burmese Muslims have streamed into Bangladesh in the past week joining at least 60,000 others fleeing persecution by Burmese soldiers. Thousands more are expected.

The sources said the Muslim refugees from Burma's western Arakan state, called Rohingyas, fled across the border saying Burmese soldiers had burned their homes and arrested thousands of young men.

"They are still driving us from our homes, taking our sons to labour camps and torturing women," refugee Abdul Barez told reporters in south eastern Bangladesh.

Officials in Cox's Bazar residents said they were anxious, awaiting the outcome of a third meeting between the two sides scheduled for Jan. 28.

At their last meeting, Burma said it believed Bangladesh was harbouring Rohingyas rebels who are fighting for an independent homeland in Arakan, official sources said.

Dhaka denied the charge and said there were no Burmese rebels in Bangladesh.

Reports reaching Cox's Bazar Saturday said rebels from the Arakan Rohingya Islamic Front (ARIF) and Rohingya Solidarity Organisation (RSO) were trying to forge an alliance with the All-Burma Muslim Union (ABMU) to fight the military regime in mainly-Buddhist Burma.

Officials told Reuters that Rohingyas rebels in Burma were receiving help from several Islamic countries, including Saudi Arabia.

The refugees are a serious burden on Bangladesh which is one of the world's poorest countries.

"Arranging food and shelter for them will be an uphill task for the Bangladesh government. Besides, they are causing many social problems for us," said Aminul Islam a local journalist.

Aquino backs Ramos as her successor

MANILA (R) — President Corason Aquino Saturday endorsed former defence chief Fidel Ramos as her favoured successor, threatening to split the Philippines' main party which is backing a rival candidate in May polls.

Mrs. Aquino, who is not standing for re-election, announced her choice on her 59th birthday after months of vacillating. She finally opted for Gen. Ramos, a cigar-chewing general who helped put her in power in 1986 and keep her there through six coup attempts.

Aides said Mrs. Aquino believed Gen. Ramos would provide strong leadership and ensure the defeat of Imelda Marcos, the widow of ousted dictator Ferdinand Marcos who is attempting a political comeback by also running in the May 11 presidential elections.

Ramos, the 63-year-old former armed forces chief-of-staff, said Mrs. Aquino's backing would give him the decisive edge in a field of possibly 10 presidential candidates.

"I accept joyfully her solidarity with us and our cause, because Cory Aquino stands with us with all of the weight of the unique moral authority that she possesses," he told a news conference.

Mrs. Aquino's choice threatened to split the pro-administration LDP party, which has named Speaker of Congress Ramon Mitra as its candidate for the May 11 polls, and appeared to go against the wishes of the influential Roman Catholic Church.

It also divided her own family which is split between Gen. Ramos and Mr. Mitra.

Gen. Ramos acknowledged that by endorsing him Mrs. Aquino had risked "disrupting political alliances, possible family relations, even friendships with close associates."

Mr. Mitra, who had long supported Mrs. Aquino, immediately hit back, saying Mrs. Aquino's government had squandered the legacy of the 1986 "people power" revolt that ousted Mr. Marcos.

Mrs. Aquino made her long-anticipated announcement at a birthday ceremony at Malacanang Palace. Dressed in her trademark yellow, Mrs. Aquino said she believed Gen. Ramos would preserve the democratic gains made during her presidency.

But LDP President Neptali Gonzales said Mrs. Aquino, who is not a member of any party, had deserted her supporters. "For the first time I have shed my yellow T-shirt," he declared.

Along with Imelda Marcos, rivals to succeed Mrs. Aquino include Vice-President Salvador Laurel, Liberal Party President Jovito Salonga and business tycoon Eduardo Cojuangco.

Column 8

Bugs Bunny, Superman to make Russian debut

MOSCOW (R) — Bugs Bunny, Superman, Batman and other American super-heroes are coming to Russian television, courtesy of Warner Brothers, a top party spokesman said, beginning Saturday.

Some of America's most popular films will be featured on Channel 1, run by Russia but owned around the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). Some 21 hours of viewing will be broadcast over eight days. The programme is a gift to Russian television, but is considered to promote long-term investment. In 1991, a Warner Brothers effort, told a news conference, the American films are not the first to debut in the former Soviet Union. Last year, viewers saw several popular shows, including "Dallas."

Contraceptive vaccine developed

PARIS (R) — A French scientist said he had successfully tested a contraceptive vaccine on animals and it could be marketed for humans within a decade if forthcoming tests on women volunteers were successful. Doctor Dominique Belder, a noted immunologist, said the vaccine blocked development of the HCG hormone necessary to conceive. The vaccine would be used in overpopulated Third World countries where the regular use of contraceptive devices or pills was difficult to sustain and maintain. The vaccine will also interfere with sperm which are aged and less effective. Dr. Belder told French Television. The vaccine would probably be administered once a month for three months with a booster shot every six months afterwards.

Sumo champ 'too young for victory toast'

TOKYO (R) — He may be big enough to fight Japan's heaviest men but 19-year-old Takahana, not favourite to win the New Year Sumo Tournament, is not old enough to drink a victory toast, police said. The teenage sensation, younger of two brothers who have taken the staid world of sumo by storm, is leading the tournament by one victory with just two days to go. He will be the youngest man ever to win a top-level tournament. Something to celebrate, of course, but not with the traditional draught of sake (Japanese rice wine) from a huge victory cup, the National Police Agency has ruled. "We have asked the Japan Sumo Association to be prudent and not to let Takahana sip sake from the cup," an agency spokesman said. "He is still a minor, and there is a law against drinking by minors." The spokesman added: "In Japan, no one under 20 is allowed to drink or smoke. A particular reason for police concern is the fact that the smiling, good-looking Takahana has become a role model for young Japanese. In 1990 he and brother Wakahanada appeared together in a poster campaign against juvenile crime. "We want him to be careful," the police spokesman said. The Japan Sumo Association agrees. A spokeswoman said: "The association will not let Takahana drink sake. It is just a ritual in the cup will contain something non-alcoholic." Like fruit juice? "Something like that... We will do what is necessary not to draw any complaints."

Sun peeks over Alaska after 2 month absence

BARROW, Alaska (AP) — Barrow residents had their first view of the sun in more than two months, although they had to brave wind-chilled temperatures of 50 degrees below zero to do it. The air temperature was about 25 below, with wind chilled lows dropping to double that. The last time the sun peeked over the horizon here was Nov. 19. Skies were clear, and onlookers described the sun as a big golden globe that rose slowly while the sky was streaked with red. At its apex, about one-third to one-half of the sun was above the horizon. It rose at 1:17 p.m. (2217 GMT) and set 45 minutes later. Barrow is a city of about 3,500 residents located well above the arctic circle, about 800 kilometres north-west of Fairbanks.

Right wing rejects De Klerk speech

CAPE TOWN (R) — President F.W. de Klerk has promised not to force changes on South Africa's ruling white minority and urged right-wingers to join talks about political reform. But a Conservative leader rejected his olive branch.

"We are honour-bound to hold a referendum... on any substantive changes to the constitution. Only after such a referendum, and if the result is positive, will implementation follow," Mr. De Klerk said in an opening address to parliament Friday.

He urged right-wingers who oppose transition from white rule to democracy to join the multi-party Convention for a Democratic South Africa (CODESA), which is negotiating change.

He said the convention would decide the shape of an interim government but would not itself assume executive powers.

"CODESA is not and should not be an institution of authority," he said.

Andries Treurnicht, leader of the pro-apartheid Conservative Party, rejected Mr. De Klerk's appeal to join CODESA. He said a promise by Mr. De Klerk to put the concept of racial partition on the CODESA agenda was pointless in the light of the president's acknowledged opposition to it.

"The invitation... to participate in CODESA makes no sense. We do not negotiate on that basis," said Mr. Treurnicht, who earlier stated: "We can't stand idly by while whites are sold out."

African National Congress (ANC) leader Nelson Mandela said Mr. De Klerk's address, which reaffirmed earlier promises of a white veto on political change, was insensitive.

Mr. De Klerk said he would poll all South Africans and whites separately on proposals for political reform. He said the white-dominated parliament was the only body that could implement change.

Mr. Mandela rejected the white veto but said he was not pessimistic about the prospects for a negotiated settlement.

"We have had a lot of problems where we have approached an issue from different angles, but we have been able to narrow that gap and at times achieve a breakthrough," Mr. Mandela told a news conference.

"On the basis of our past record I am not at all pessimistic."

About 20,000 ANC supporters, most of them blacks, rallied on a square near parliament as Mr. De Klerk spoke and later marched to the red-brick building to demand the end of white rule.

In Pretoria, 34 people were arrested and held for several hours after a demonstration that police said was illegal.

Meanwhile, American film director Spike Lee arrived in South Africa Friday to shoot scenes for a film about black radical leader Malcolm X aimed at bringing blacks in Africa and the United States closer together.

Mr. Lee will spend two days in Soweto shooting scenes for the film *Any Means Necessary* on the late American activist assassinated in 1965 before leaving Monday.

Mr. Lee, visiting white-ruled South Africa for the first time, told a news conference it did not matter that Malcolm X and never come to the country.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

U.S. to halt nuclear warhead production

WASHINGTON (R) — The Bush administration plans to suspend indefinitely making nuclear bombs and cancel the only type of warhead still on order, the Washington Post said Saturday. The decision is to be announced Wednesday by Energy Secretary James Watkins, whose department is responsible for nuclear weapons production, the Post said, quoting unidentified senior U.S. officials. Some of the estimated savings of more than \$1 billion would probably be used to clean up environmental damage at some nuclear weapons production sites, the newspaper said. Cancellation of production of the warhead, known as W-88, follows other recent steps to reduce nuclear weapons output and reflects diminished concern among policymakers about the nuclear threat to the United States, the Post said.

Bush unveils 11% hike for space station

WASHINGTON (R) — President George Bush has announced an 11 per cent boost — \$2.25 billion — in funding for a space station next year as part of an effort to refocus the U.S. space programme on exploration. "Space exploration should be and will be a national effort," Mr. Bush told about 100 children. "When I send my annual budget... up to Congress next week, it is going to mark the third straight year that I've called for a real increase in spending on our civil space programme," Mr. Bush said. "And this includes full funding for space station freedom, \$2.25 billion, an increase of 11 per cent." He said the space station would be valuable to scientists but is also "essential to our destiny as a pioneering nation." Mr. Bush said he would establish a national space exploration office next month.

Poll shows Clinton, Bush ahead

WASHINGTON (AP) — A new poll in the New Hampshire presidential primary shows Arkansas Gov. Bill Clinton leading Democratic contenders and President George Bush with three times the support of challenger Patrick Buchanan. The poll of 450 Democratic voters in the state which holds the nation's first primary on Feb. 18 gives Mr. Clinton 34 per cent to 22 per cent for Massachusetts Sen. Paul Tsongas. On the Republican side, a sample of 442 likely GOP voters had President Bush leading challenger Patrick Buchanan 60 per cent to 19 per cent, with 21 per cent undecided. The New Hampshire vote provides the first indication of voter appeal in the U.S. presidential race which is not until November. Third among Democrats was Nebraska Sen. Bob Kerrey with 13 per cent, followed by Iowa Sen. Tom Harkin, former California Gov. Jerry Brown and former Irvine, California city Mayor Larry Argan, each with 2 per cent. Mr. Argan is virtually unknown nationally, although he has some support among the country's elected Mayors because of his knowledge of local government issues.

Japanese MP blasts U.S. management

TOKYO (R) — A former Japanese minister has berated the quality of American executives saying they, and not workers, were to blame for the state of the U.S. economy, a Japanese news agency said Saturday. "The quality of American business executives is poor although productivity of American workers is comparatively high," Shintaro Ishihara, a member of the lower house of parliament and former environment minister, told Kyodo News Service. It was the second time in a week that a Japanese politician has publicly taken Americans to task for their economic performance and work habits. Earlier Yoshio Sakurachi, veteran speaker of the lower house of parliament, ignited a trans-Pacific row when he said American workers were lazy and illiterate. "The quality of American labour is poor," Mr. Sakurachi was reported as saying. "About 30 per cent of the workers cannot read. Under these circumstances, executives cannot give (them) written instructions." Commenting on Mr. Sakurachi's remarks, Mr. Ishihara said: "His remark was half correct and half wrong.... He should have said the quality of American business managers is inferior."

Salvador officers get 30 years

SAN SALVADOR (R) — Two military officers were sentenced to maximum 30-year prison sentences Friday in the 1989 Jesuit murder case, a crime that prompted an international outcry. The sentence was announced less than 12 hours after the Salvadoran congress passed an amnesty law allowing leftist rebel leaders to return home on Feb. 1 for a formal ceasefire marking the end of the country's 12-year civil war. The amnesty offers no assurance of forgiveness for the country's worst war criminals, however. The Jesuits were shot dead together with their cook and her daughter during a rebel offensive in the capital of San Salvador in November 1989. Colonel Guillermo Alfredo Benavides, who was found guilty by a civilian tribunal in September of masterminding the execution-style murders, is the highest-ranking army officer ever sentenced in a human rights case in El Salvador.

'2,500 dead in Nigerian communal strife'

LAGOS (R) — Up to 2,500 people have been killed in communal fighting over farmland in Nigeria's remote northeastern state of Taraba since last October, according to reports from the area Saturday. Western diplomats said missionaries who reached the northern city of Kaduna from Taraba's Wukari region had reported between 2,000 and 2,500 deaths in clashes involving the mainly Christian Tiv and Jukun ethnic groups, at loggerheads for nearly 40 years. There was no official confirmation of the reports and it was not clear whether fighting was still going on. Vice President Augustus Abacha urged representatives of both sides to seek peace when he summoned them to Lagos, 700 kilometres southwest of Wukari, three weeks ago.

NATO to draw new republics under its wing

BRUSSELS (AP) — The NATO allies are scrambling to wield influence over the former republics of the Soviet Union in an effort to deal with the power vacuum left after the collapse of the superpower.

But the military alliance is not yet ready to offer them full membership and the security guarantees that go with it.

Instead, it plans to invite the former republics to join a special forum allowing them to share their security worries and hopefully shape their nations' policies along Western lines.

"The main idea is to project as much stability as possible in political terms to this area," said Manfred Woerner, secretary-general of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), in an interview.

The allies want "to avoid a kind of power vacuum or a confrontation between rivaling states and to contribute somehow to calm this area," Mr. Woerner said.

Before independence, the Soviet Union controlled the armed forces and arsenals of nuclear and conventional weapons. Without that structure, the new states are starting to provide for their own defence.

NATO ambassadors recently agreed to let the former republics take part in the security forum — the North Atlantic Cooperation Council — set up late last year by President Bush and other alliance leaders.

The council was designed to draw the West's former adversaries in Eastern Europe closer without granting them full membership in NATO.

Its first meeting was held last December with nine Eastern European nations, including the Soviet Union, Poland, Czechoslovakia and Hungary.

Another session will likely be scheduled next month.

Officials told Reuters that Rohingyas rebels in Burma were receiving help from several Islamic countries, including Saudi Arabia.

The refugees are a serious burden on Bangladesh which is one of the world's poorest countries.

"Arranging food and shelter for them will be an uphill task for the Bangladesh government. Besides, they are causing many social problems for us," said Aminul Islam a local journalist.

Havel, federation in political trouble

PRAGUE (AP) — Vaclav Havel is in political trouble two years after the "velvet revolution" swept him to the presidency. By midsummer, he may be out of power and the nation could disintegrate.

Mr. Havel's failure to achieve constitutional reform increase the chances that the federation of 10 million Czechs and 5 million Slovaks will dissolve.

The two tough politicians likely to win leadership of the regions in June elections are seen as improbable partners for Mr. Havel, who was a dissident playwright before communism fell. That would make both his candidacy and reelections by the new federal parliament questionable.

"In two years, Czechoslovakia will no longer exist as one state," said Peter Uhl, a federal deputy, former dissident and political pessimist.

Michael Zantovsky, spokesman for Mr. Havel, takes the opposite view: "A pessimist would say this country's doomed, but there are not many pessimists in this country."

Mr. Havel's record as a stubborn dissident gives his resilience and

humanistic approach to politics and Mr. Havel might decide not to seek reelection in such a hostile climate. If he does, they could use their deputies' votes to defeat him.

The two regional leaders agree on the need for a market economy, but Mr. Meciar advocates slower reform to lessen unemployment, which has affected Slovakia much more severely than the Czech lands of Bohemia and Moravia. It stands at 11.8 per cent in Slovakia, compared to 6.6 per cent nationally.

However, Mr. Meciar's plans threaten the ambitious programme of radical privatisation that Mr. Klaus recommends.

Czechs, who spent centuries under German or Austrian influence, are secular and have a history of industrialisation stretching to the 18th century.

Slovakia, by contrast, is a rural, strongly Roman Catholic region governed for centuries by Hungary. Much of its industry was developed artificially under communism and now is in danger.

Recent polls indicated only 11 per cent of Slovaks want an inde-

pendent state, despite burgeoning nationalism. Thirty per cent favour a confederation and 31 per cent a federated state with two equal republics.

Mr. Meciar, the Slovak leader, is politician enough to say he will negotiate with whomever the Czechs elect. He and Mr. Klaus might agree on a loose confederation that would avoid a total split of Czechoslovakia.

But he blames Mr. Havel for the Czech-Slovak deadlock on a new constitution.

"I voted for Havel as president, but I wouldn't make the same mistake again," he said.

Politicians on all sides criticise how the sensitive issue of Slovakia has been handled by Mr. Havel and his advisers, most of whom are intellectuals rooted in Prague, the federal and Czech capital.

"The Castle (Mr. Havel's office) was so pragmatic that it was just a matter of time when the Slovak issue would explode, and now it won't go away," said Jan Kavan, a federal deputy who published Mr. Havel's cause in dissident days as an exile in London.

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Neither shares the president's